# PENDING LEGISLATION

# **HEARING**

BEFORE THE

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

OF THE

# COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES UNITED STATES SENATE

#### ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

#### SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 599/H.R. 1488	S. 2441	S. 2876
S. 1644	S. 2570	S. 2889/H.R. 4895
S. 1926/H.R. 2156	S. 2604	S. 3176/H.R. 5979
S. 1987/H.R. 2600	S. 2672	S. 3287/H.R. 5655
S. 1993	S. 2831/H.R. 5751	S. 3298
S. 2015	S. 2870	H. Con. Res. 33

AUGUST 15, 2018



Printed for the use of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Available via the World Wide Web: http://www.govinfo.gov

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE  ${\bf WASHINGTON}: 2019$ 

31 – 317

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#### PENDING LEGISLATION

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018

U.S. Senate,
Subcommittee on National Parks,
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 4:03 p.m. in Room SD-366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Steve Daines, presiding.

#### OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. STEVE DAINES, U.S. SENATOR FROM MONTANA

Senator Daines [presiding]. The Subcommittee will come to order.

Before we get started, I would like to take a moment to recognize Darla Ripchensky. Happy Birthday. She is the Chief Clerk here on the Committee.

On this occasion of her birthday, I do think it is important that we recognize Darla. In fact, I was chatting with my staff here today, I think one of my staff members said he sent you four emails already today.

We want to thank you for the incredible work that you do in service to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and to the United States Senate as a whole.

Darla, thank you for everything you do and have a happy birth-

I know it is a bit unusual to hold a legislative hearing in this room in August but it does give us, as a Committee, a nice opportunity to continue to move the priorities of this body forward.

The 24 bills we are examining this afternoon cover a wide range of issues relating to the federal land administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI), primarily by the National Park Service (NPS), as well as one item that would, if enacted, be administered by the United States Forest Service.

Some of the items we will hear today are new to this Subcommittee and others we have heard before in previous Congresses, but this will give us a great opportunity to update the record as well as for members to ask questions as they see fit.

Because we have so many items on the agenda today, I will not go through each one individually, but I would like to highlight a few before we get started.

First, I would like to highlight Senate bill 3298, which I recently introduced with my colleague, Senator Duckworth. I think most of us are very familiar with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall,

now one of the most iconic memorials on the National Mall. In fact, Montana currently has approximately 31,000 Vietnam Veterans. Montana, on a per capita basis, usually is either second or third in the nation for veteran populations. The Wall honors not only the veterans, but all those who served and sacrificed in that war. It is a place of great significance, not only to Vietnam Veterans, but to

our country as a whole.

The Wall was funded and built by the Congressionally-authorized, non-profit organization, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Incorporated, in 1980. Now, several decades later, this group is working hard to build an education center near the Wall. We want to ensure that future generations of Americans understand the importance of the Vietnam War and its impact on our shared history as Americans. They have worked hard to raise funds for the education center but need a bit more time to meet their deadline which runs out in November 2018. This legislation, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Extension Act, will provide them with the time that they need to continue raising funds so that the center can be built and an endowment created for ongoing maintenance requirements.

At this time, I would like to enter several letters of support for this legislation into the official record from both Montana and other national groups who have asked Congress to extend the authoriza-

tion.

I do that without objection.

[Letters of support for Senate bill 3298 follow:]



#### MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS 5413-B BACKLICK ROAD SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151-3960 Phone: (703) 642-5360 Fax: (703) 642-2054

August 13, 2018

The Honorable Steve Daines 320 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

On behalf of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), whose membership is comprised entirely of combat wounded veterans, I am pleased to offer our support for the *Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Extension Act*, which would grant the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) the ability to continue to collect donations for the construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center for an additional four years.

In 2003, Congress authorized the VVMF to raise funds for the construction of an Education Center, to be located in the vicinity of the Memorial Wall. The VVMF states that, "The Education Center at The Wall will be an interactive learning facility on the National Mall where our military heroes' stories and sacrifice will never be forgotten." MOPH strongly supports this initiative to educate the general public about those who bravely served and died in the Vietnam War, and to preserve their memory for future generations.

Now, as the 15 year fundraising window is scheduled to close in 2018, the VVMF has found that it needs additional time to finish collecting the approximately \$130 million necessary to begin construction of the Education Center. In today's highly competitive fundraising environment, MOPH finds this request completely reasonable. For this reason, we support this legislation to extend the fundraising period by an additional four years, and eagerly anticipate the day that the Education Center is open for all to experience.

MOPH thanks you for your leadership on this issue, and your steadfast support of veterans and their families. We look forward to working with you to ensure the passage of this important legislation.

Yours in Patriotism,

Douglas J. Greenlaw National Commander

EXCLUSIVELY FOR COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS



# Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Department of Montana

P.O. Box 4789 1956 Mt Majo Street Ft. Harrison, MT 59636 (406)324-3992

7 August, 2018

Senator Steve Daines 320 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator Daines:

On behalf of the Department of Montana Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander Joe Fletcher, the Department of Montana Veterans of Foreign Wars supports the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Extension Act.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center will be a valuable education opportunity for its visitors and a place of healing for America's Vietnam veterans. Our Vietnam veterans need a place that they can go to reflect on their Vietnam War experiences and allow the psychological wounds of war to heal, even if just slightly.

Therefore the Department of Montana Veterans of Foreign Wars would like to add our support to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Extension Act and encourage the entire senate to do the same.

Sincerely

TIMOTHY C. PETERS State Adjutant/Quartermaster

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.** vfwmt.org



August 8, 2018

Senator Steve Daines 320 Hart Senate Office Building Washington D.C. 20510

#### Chairman Daines:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), I want to thank you for introducing S. 3298. As you are aware, this bill will extend our authority to establish the Education Center at The Wall until 2022.

Since our previous extension in 2012, we received approval of the National Capital Planning Commission and Commission of Fine Arts. These approvals allowed us to finalize the design process to the 95% completion level. In total, these design approvals took twelve years and millions of dollars.

As the exhibit and theme details were finalized, we continued efforts to assemble their content. One exhibit, The Wall of Faces, now consists of more than 56,000 of the 58,318 photographs of those engraved on The Wall. This effort has taken more than 10 years, with the help of an army of volunteers.

Another exhibit, including 4,000-6,000 items from the massive collection of things left at The Wall, now has over 3,000 items curated and ready for review by our content advisory committee. Currently, both exhibits are available to the public on our website, and we have integrated them into all our education outreach programs that reach students around the country.

Finally, in the last six years, we have been able to raise one-third of the necessary funding to begin construction. Throughout the nation, hundreds of individuals, local veteran groups, and organizations continue to assist in this fundraising effort. While completed funding remains elusive at the moment, we remain confident our nation's continued awareness and focus on veterans will assure our success.

The time is now to build the Education Center so we can teach current and future generations about the service and sacrifices of our Vietnam veterans. We appreciate your leadership and willingness to pass this through the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks.

Respectfully.

President & CEO

Senator Daines. Speaking of those who have served, we have another item on our agenda today, Senate bill 3287, the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act, which was introduced by Leader McConnell, and its companion bill, H.R. 5655, which recently passed the House by a vote of 376 to 4. This legislation would establish Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument as a unit of the National Park System. Camp Nelson opened during the Civil War, originally as a supply depot. It quickly transformed into a training and recruiting center for the Union Army, primarily for African American soldiers. Over the course of the Civil War, Camp Nelson recruited over 10,000 African American soldiers into the Union Army and became a temporary home for families of the soldiers.

Several significant events at the site, including a temporary expulsion of the families, led the U.S. Army to change its policies to-

ward refugees and family members of soldiers.

This site, which has already been designated as part of the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and as a National Historic Landmark, is an important part of our nation's history and we look forward to hearing more about it today.

As I mentioned earlier, we have two dozen items on the agenda, ranging from modifications to memorials on the National Mall to adjusting funding caps for National Heritage Areas and lifting reversionary interests on federal lands held by the Park Service. Each of these agenda items are not only important to individual senators but to our nation's parks and citizens as a whole.

This Subcommittee is so important to our members and our citizens because we often talk about very local issues and about access to parks. My wife and I were literally in Yellowstone National Park

just last week.

In Montana, access to public lands and recreation is at the forefront of our minds and our economy. It is my hope, as Chair, I can continue to further that discussion.

In fact, I just got back from hiking in the Montana wilderness. My wife and I did a 25-mile loop up where there are no boot prints, no trails, just elk hair caddis, a fly rod and cutthroat trout. We spent time visiting our public lands, seeing firsthand the economic benefits they provide to our communities.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the Administration's views on pending legislation and allow Committee members an opportunity to ask questions. We will also include written statements that have been sent to the Subcommittee in the official hearing record.

Because of the large number of bills on today's agenda I will not read through the list, but at this time I will include the complete agenda in the hearing record, without objection.

[Today's complete agenda follows:]

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

#### HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT AND AGENDA

This notice is to advise you of a legislative hearing before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on National Parks. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills:

- **S. 599** (Donnelly) / **H.R. 1488** (Visclosky), to redesignate the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as the "Indiana Dunes National Park", and for other purposes;
- S.1644 (Cardin), to clarify the status of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as a unit of the National Park System;
- **S. 1926** (Harris) / **H.R. 2156** (Knight), to provide for the establishment of a national memorial and national monument to commemorate those killed by the collapse of the Saint Francis Dam on March 12, 1928, and for other purposes;
- S. 1987 (Grassley) / H.R. 2600 (Young), to provide for the conveyance to the State of Iowa of the reversionary interest held by the United States in and to certain land in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and to express the sense of Congress relating to the continued provision of information relating to certain national historic trails:
- S. 1993 (Feinstein), to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and for other purposes;
- **S. 2015** (Baldwin), to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes;
- **S. 2441** (Casey), to amend the Steel Industry American Heritage Area Act of 1996 to repeal the funding limitation;
- S.2570 (Markey), to repeal the funding authorization sunset and the total funding cap for the Essex National Heritage Area:
- S. 2604 (Casey), to amend the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act to reauthorize the Oil Region National Heritage Area, and for other purposes;
- **S. 2672** (Moran), to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument

- located on federal land in President's Park in Washington, DC, and for other purposes;
- S.2831 (Hatch) / H.R.5751 (Bishop), to redesignate Golden Spike National Historic Site and to establish the Transcontinental Railroad Network;
- S. 2870 (Gardner), to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site known as 'Amache' in the State of Colorado;
- S. 2876 (Bennet), to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Pike National Historic Trail;
- S. 2889 (Wicker) / H.R. 4895 (Thompson), to establish the Medgar Evers National Monument in the State of Mississippi, and for other purposes;
- S. 3176 (McConnell) / H.R. 5979 (Rogers), to establish the Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument in the State of Kentucky as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes;
- S.3287 (McConnell) / H.R.5655 (Barr), to establish the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in the State of Kentucky as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes;
- S. 3298 (Daines), to extend the authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., to establish a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and
- H. Con. Res. 33 (Goodlatte), designating the George C. Marshall Museum and George C. Marshall Research Library in Lexington, Virginia, as the National George C. Marshall Museum and Library.

Senator DAINES. We have one witness today, Mr. P. Daniel Smith, the Deputy Director, acting in the capacity of the Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Mr. Smith, thank you for being with us here today.

But first, let me turn to the Ranking Member, Senator King, for his opening remarks.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. ANGUS S. KING, JR., U.S. SENATOR FROM MAINE

Senator KING. Thank you, Senator Daines. Just as you were in Yellowstone this past weekend, I am going to be in Acadia National Park in Maine next weekend, assuming we are allowed to go home, but I am looking forward to that visit to Mount Desert Island.

Thank you to our witness, Deputy Director Smith, for taking the time to join us here today and for analyzing, on behalf of the Administration, these bills. We will be talking about a wide variety

of important National Park related issues.

You can tell by looking at these bills and the people who have sponsored them just how important historic and natural preservation is to the people in all corners of this country. Whether it is commemorating a beloved and respected historical figure, trail, or site, the American people trust—important word, trust—the National Park Service as a steward of these treasured resources. When you consider the general lack of trust in government as an institution these days, maintaining and living up to that trust is no small feat. Yet, the National Park Service has done it and is doing it every day.

That is why I can understand that the Park Service must be prudent in taking on more property, sites, and projects. I will be interested to hear today why some sites make the list and make the cut

and others do not.

Your task is important, and we appreciate the insights and experience that you bring to our hearing.

Thank you, Mr. Smith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to the hearing.

Senator DAINES. All member statements will be added to the hearing record.

It is now time to hear from our witness, Mr. Smith, Deputy Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

At the end of the testimony, we will begin questions. Your full written testimony will be made part of the official hearing record. Mr. Smith, you may proceed.

# STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. SMITH. Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on the 25 bills on today's agenda.

I will submit full statements for the record, and I will briefly summarize our views.

The Department supports the following bills:

—S. 2889 and H.R. 4895 which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Medgar Evers Home National Monument in Jackson, Mississippi, as a unit of the National Park System.

—S. 3176 and H.R. 5979 which would authorize the Secretary to establish Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument in Nancy, Kentucky, as a unit of the National Park System.

—S. 3287 and H.K. 5655 which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in Nicholasville, Kentucky, as a unit of the National Park System.

All three of these sites are designated national historic landmarks and all three are owned by organizations that have indicated a desire to donate the properties to the National Park Service. These sites offer exceptional opportunities for the National Park System to increase its ability to preserve and interpret the story of the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement in this nation.

In tandem, with supporting the legislative efforts of the sponsors of these three pieces of legislation, the Department is working on a parallel effort to prepare for the potential designation of these sites as national monuments under the Antiquities Act. The National Park Service has opened a 30-day public comment period on all three of these designations to garner public input. Either through legislation or through the use of the Antiquities Act, we hope to see the vision of these three units become reality.

The Department also supports:

- —S. 2831 and H.R. 5751 which would re-designate Golden Spike National Historic Site as Golden Spike National Historical Park.
- —S. 3298 which would extend the authority for the establishment of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitors Center until 2022.

For several of the bills we support we are requesting amendments. These amendments are explained in our full statements, and we look forward to working with the Committee on those amendments.

The Department does not object to the following bills:

- —S. 2015 which would designate as units of the National Park System the three national scenic trails that currently are not units, the North Country, Ice Age and New England National Scenic Trails.
- —S. 2672 which would authorize modifications to the First Division Monument located in President's Park.
- —S. 1987 and H.R. 2600 which would require the relinquishment of the deed restriction on property the Federal Government conveyed to the State of Iowa for use as a national trail center. However, the Department would like to work with the Committee on amendments to ensure that public uses are preserved on the property.

The Department does not support the following six bills:

—S. 1993 which would adjust the boundary of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the area known as the Rim of the Valley corridor. —S. 2441 which would eliminate the funding limitation for the Steel Industry National Heritage Area.

—S. 2570 which would eliminate the funding authorization sunset and the funding limitation for the Essex National Historic Area

- —S. 2604 which would extend the funding authorization sunset and funding limitation for the Oil Regional National Heritage Area.
- —S. 2870 which would authorize a special resource study of the site known as 'Amache' in Colorado.
- —S. 2876 which would authorize a study of the Pike Trail for potential designation as a National Historic Trail.

The Department does not support H.R. 599 and H.R. 1488 which would re-designate Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as Indiana Dunes National Park; however, we do not object to the provision in the House bill that would rename the Miller Woods Trail as the Paul H. Douglas Trail.

The Department opposes S. 1644 which would designate Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as a unit of the National Park System.

Finally, the Department defers to the Department of Agriculture for a position on S. 1926 and H.R. 2156 because those bills would authorize a national memorial on U.S. Forest Service land.

[The information referred to follows:]

## STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SENATE

# COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

#### CONCERNING

#### S. 1926 - SAINT FRANCIS DAM DISASTER NATIONAL MEMORIAL ACT

#### **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding S. 1926, the Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Act.

S. 1926 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Saint Francis Dam Disaster Memorial at the Saint Francis Dam site in Los Angeles County, California, for the purpose of honoring the victims of the Saint Francis Dam disaster of March 12, 1928. The Act would establish a National Monument on 353 acres of the Angeles National Forest, as depicted on the map titled "Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Monument - Proposed", dated August 2, 2017. The Memorial would be created for the purposes of conserving and enhancing the cultural, archaeological, historical, watershed, educational and recreational resources of the dam disaster site.

The legislation authorizes the Secretary to accept, hold, administer, invest, and spend any gift, and devise or bequest of real or personal property made to the Secretary for purposes of developing, designing, constructing, and managing the Memorial.

The legislation directs the Secretary to develop recommendations to Congress within three years of enactment regarding the planning, boundaries, design, construction and long-term management of the Memorial, including recommendations regarding a visitor center and educational facilities. The Secretary would develop the recommendations after consulting with appropriate Federal agencies; State, tribal and local governments and the public.

1

USDA would like to work with the bill sponsor and Subcommittee to reduce administrative costs and burdens to the Forest and Region. These costs would include planning, creating and maintaining a new Memorial, including a visitor center and educational facilities. USDA is supportive of the authority to accept donations for the Memorial under section 3(c) but is concerned that it will not be able to rely solely on donations to plan, design, implement, construct and maintain a new Memorial if supported by external donations.

USDA recommends to the bill sponsor and the subcommittee that the legislative map "Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Monument - Proposed" be revised so that the Monument boundary lines take into consideration existing land uses, management needs, and Forest Plan designations. USDA would suggest limiting activity to meet incoming donations.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our position on S. 1926, the Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Act.

Mr. Smith. On H. Con. Res. 33, because that resolution would confer the designation of national to the library in honor of George C. Marshall, whose work was associated with those two depart-

ments.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my remarks. I look forward to answering your questions.
[The prepared statements of Mr. Smith follow:]

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 599 AND H.R. 1488, BILLS TO RETITLE, OR REDESIGNATE, THE INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE AS THE INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL PARK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

#### **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 599 and H.R. 1488, bills to retitle, or redesignate, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as Indiana Dunes National Park, and for other purposes.

The Department of the Interior does not support redesignating Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as Indiana Dunes National Park, as this change would be inconsistent with the National Park Service's naming conventions for different types of park units. The Department has no objection to redesignating the national lakeshore's Miller-Woods Trail as the "Paul H. Douglas Trail", as provided for by H.R. 1488.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, located along fifteen miles of the southern shores of Lake Michigan between Gary and Michigan City, Indiana, was authorized by Congress on November 5, 1966. The designation of the national lakeshore as a unit of the National Park System was the culmination of decades of work by conservationists, area residents and elected officials to preserve the unique area of dunes on Lake Michigan's southern shore that began in 1899. The enabling legislation authorized the inclusion of 8,330 acres of land and water, and several subsequent authorizations increased the size of the national lakeshore to more than 15,000 acres.

Although we understand the desire of the bills' sponsors and proponents to bring greater recognition of the significant resources and opportunities for recreation available at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the National Park Service believes that the current designation is appropriate for the unit and in keeping with our efforts to provide consistency in the naming of park units. The National Park Service encourages Congress to follow a standard pattern of nomenclature for units of the National Park System. Our preference is that the designation of "national park" be reserved for units that contain a variety of resources and encompass large land or water areas to help provide adequate protection of the resources, and that in general, similar types of units have consistent designations. Indiana Dunes has more in common with the other Great Lakes national lakeshores—Apostle Islands, Pictured Rocks, and Sleeping Bear Dunes—and with the National Park System's many other national seashores and national recreation areas, than with most national parks. Indiana Dunes is the smallest of the four lakeshore units, and the only one of the four that does not include any designated wilderness.

The Department does not object to the provision of H.R. 1488 that would redesignate the Miller-Woods Trail within Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as the "Paul H. Douglas Trail". While permanent tribute in a unit of the national park system is a high honor, excessive or inappropriate

use of memorializing people in parks can divert attention from the resources and values the parks were established to preserve and interpret. Therefore, the National Park Service discourages the practice except when there is a compelling justification for the recognition.

We believe that there is a compelling justification for designating the "Paul H. Douglas Trail". Paul Howard Douglas served as a United States Senator from the State of Illinois from 1949 to 1967 and was instrumental in the establishment of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The lakeshore's Center for Environmental Education, located at the trailhead of the Miller-Woods trail system, is already named for the Senator. The Miller-Woods trail is named for the surrounding neighborhood, and does not refer to a particular person.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 2015, A BILL TO CLARIFY THE STATUS OF THE NORTH COUNTRY, ICE AGE, AND NEW ENGLAND NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS AS UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND S. 1644, A BILL TO CLARIFY THE STATUS OF THE CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.

#### **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on two bills that address the status of national trails: S. 2015, a bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes; and S. 1644, a bill to clarify the status of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as a

The Department does not object to enactment of S. 2015, which would result in making all six national scenic trails administered by the National Park Service units of the National Park System. We recommend an amendment to S. 2015 described in this statement. However, the Department opposes enactment of S. 1644, which would make a single national historic trail a unit of the National Park System, conferring a status that is different from all of the other 16 national historic trails.

unit of the National Park System.

S. 2015 would amend the National Trails System Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to administer the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System. Similarly, S. 1644 would amend the National Trails System Act to require the Secretary to administer the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as a unit of the National Park System. Currently, the Act is silent regarding unit status for each of these trails and for all the other long-distance trails designated as national scenic or historic trails.

Of the 23 Congressionally designated long-distance trails administered or co-administered by the National Park Service, six are national scenic trails and 17 are national historic trails. Of the six national scenic trails, three are currently counted as units of the National Park System. The choice to count these trails as units was an administrative decision reflecting the extent of actual or potential Federal land ownership and the National Park Service's role in administering these trails.

In addition to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, which was authorized in 1968 and administratively listed as a unit of the National Park System in 1972, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail - both authorized in 1983 - were administratively listed as units in the mid-1980's. Amending the National Trails System

Act to provide that the North Country (authorized 1980), Ice Age (authorized 1980), and New England (authorized 2009) National Scenic Trails shall be administered as units of the National Park System would provide consistency in the status of all six national scenic trails. For legal consistency, we recommend that S. 2015 be amended to provide unit status statutorily for the three national scenic trails (the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, and the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail) that are currently counted as units administratively. We would be pleased to work with the Committee on appropriate language for that purpose.

The Department's opposition to S. 1644, which would designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as a unit of the National Park System, is not a judgement on the value or merit of national historic trails in comparison to national scenic trails, but rather is based on differences in the composition of the trails and how they are utilized by visitors.

National scenic trails are generally continuous, extended routes of outdoor recreation within protected corridors that follow geologic features. National historic trails follow as closely as possible the original routes of nationally significant historic and prehistoric travel, many of which today have become driving routes. A primary National Park Serivce management focus in the context of national historic trails is the identification and protection of high priority sites and segments, as well providing for recreation where possible, but a historic trail does not necessarily need to be a continuous, protected corridor. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail is primarily a water-based trail extending throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Its exact route cannot be precisely determined and the protection of such an imprecise, continuous route is not feasible.

Furthermore, unlike the situation with the scenic trails, conferring unit status on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake trail would make it the only national historic trail, out of all 17, that is a unit of the National Park System. That could raise new perceptions of unequal treatment among the historic trails.

Regardless of whether trails are counted as units or not, all of the long-distance trails administered by the National Park Service are, by law, part of the National Park System. Conferring unit status does not change the management of that trail or affect any existing agreements, easements, or other legal instruments in effect for the administration of the trail. The designation of a trail as a unit has no impact upon the cost of operating the trail. The National Park Service has taken steps to assure that trails have equal access to sources of funding and that the public is informed about national scenic and historic trails on the National Park Service website and in other forms of media. We have also worked with the National Park Foundation, our Congressionally authorized philanthropic partner, to allow the long-distance trails to be considered for grant funding.

We recognize that listing certain trails as units and not others may have led to the perception among our trail partners that the trails are receiving unequal treatment. So long as some national trails are units and others are not, that will likely continue to be the case. The National Park Service values the unique relationships and partnerships that have been developed with communities along national trails. We will continue to work with our trail partners to improve

communications and address any of the concerns that are raised regarding equal treatment for trails.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 1926 AND H.R. 2156, BILLS TO ESTABLISH THE SAINT FRANCIS DAM DISASTER NATIONAL MEMORIAL IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

#### **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1926 and H.R. 2156, bills to establish a national memorial and national monument to commemorate those killed by the collapse of the Saint Francis Dam on March 12, 1928, and for other purposes.

The Department of the Interior defers to the Department of Agriculture for a position on S. 1926 and H.R. 2156 since the purpose of the legislation is to establish a national monument and a national memorial in the Angeles National Forest, administered by the U.S. Forest Service in Los Angeles County. Both the national monument and the national memorial would be located at a site that is not under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, and this bill does not provide for any management or funding by the National Park Service.

The Saint Francis Dam was one of several large infrastructure projects constructed in the early 20th century to help control water flow to southern California. On March 12, 1928, the dam breached, and the resulting flood took more than 400 lives. The collapse of this dam is considered one of the worst civil engineering failures in the 20th century. S. 1926 and H.R. 2156 authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the memorial to honor the disaster victims. The bills also authorize the creation of a 440-acre Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Monument that will encompass the site of the Saint Francis Dam National Memorial.

The National Park Service has management responsibility for a large number national memorials and national monuments, and the public often associates both types of designated sites with the National Park Service. In this case, however, the national monument and the national memorial would be located deep within the Angeles National Forest and would fall within the responsibility of the Forest Service.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING H. R. 2600 AND S. 1987, BILLS TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONVEYANCE TO THE STATE OF IOWA OF THE REVERSIONARY INTEREST HELD BY THE UNITED STATES IN AND TO CERTAIN LAND IN POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY, IOWA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

#### **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 2600 and S. 1987, bills to provide for the conveyance to the State of Iowa of the reversionary interest held by the United States in and to certain land in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and for other purposes.

The Department does not object to H.R. 2600 and S. 1987, but recommends amendments to ensure that public uses are preserved on the property that is the subject of this legislation.

H.R. 2600 and S. 1987 as introduced would require the relinquishment of deed restrictions imposed by the quitclaim deed dated April 13, 1998, to the State of Iowa thus allowing the property to be used for any type of use, public or private. The bills also express a sense of Congress that the State continue to provide information relating to the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail, the California National Historic Trail, and the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail.

Public Law 101-191 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to provide for the development of a trails interpretive center in the City of Council Bluffs, County of Pottawattamie County, Iowa. In 1995, the National Western Trails Center, Inc., donated property to the Federal government on which the National Park Service (NPS) constructed a trails center to interpret the history of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail, and the Oregon National Historic Trail. In 1998, the Federal government then donated the trails center and surrounding property to the State Historical Society of Iowa to operate and maintain the center. When Federal ownership was transferred to the State, it was conveyed subject to a reversionary clause in the quitclaim deed, stipulating that if the trails center was no longer being used for the purposes specified in Public Law 101-191, then the property would revert back to the Federal government.

Since 1998, the State of Iowa has owned and operated the trails center. Present-day visitation at the center is very low, the hours of operation are limited, and maintenance is falling behind. The State would like to remove the trails center from its responsibility and transfer or sell the property to the City of Council Bluffs.

The NPS does not have an interest in taking over operation of the center or ownership of the land which would increase the NPS' responsibilities in asset management and deferred maintenance.

The Department understands the practical reasons for allowing the State more autonomy in how to utilize public property, and understands only too well the liability and responsibility that would come with a property reversion. However, the original intent of the National Western Trails Center, Inc., through their 1995 donation, and the intent of Public Law 101-191, enabling the center, was to ensure a public purpose in perpetuity. The deed reverter clause preserves that public purpose.

The location of the approximately 350-acre property is adjacent to the Council Bluffs Riverfront Park, south of downtown Council Bluffs, with a view across the Missouri River to the Omaha skyline in Nebraska. In 2010, the Iowa Department of Transportation purchased approximately 50 acres adjacent to the original donation for purposes of mitigation from a transportation project on the northern border of the property. The 50 acre mitigation site cost approximately \$2 million.

If legislation is not passed and the State discontinues the use of the property for the trails center, the property will revert to the NPS; were this reversion to occur, the NPS would strongly consider disposal through the General Services Administration. We would like to work with the Committee on amendments to accomplish the goal of allowing more flexibility in the use of the property, while carrying out the purpose of PL 101-191. This goal could be met through a subsequent quitclaim deed that broadens the allowable uses to include parkland, recreation, and education; a land exchange; purchase of the reversionary rights to the land by the State; or amending PL 101-191 to allow greater flexibility with the property and in the interpretation of the trails.

H.R. 2600 and S. 1987 attempt to fulfill the purpose of PL 101-191 through "Sense of Congress" language that encourages the State to continue to provide information regarding the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail, the California National Historic Trail, and the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail. We note that the NPS interprets the Lewis & Clark Historic Trail at the trail headquarters and visitor center in nearby Omaha, Nebraska.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 1993, A BILL TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA TO INCLUDE THE RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

#### **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1993, a bill to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes that a special resource study has found that the expansion of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (NRA) proposed by S. 1993 meets the National Park Service's criteria for addition to the National Park System. However, because we are focusing resources on reducing the National Park Service's \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical national park needs, the Department does not support enacting this proposed expansion at this time.

S. 1993 would expand the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains NRA by approximately 191,000 acres of land within the area known as the Rim of the Valley Corridor, the mountainous areas that surround the San Fernando, Simi, and Conejo Valleys northwest of Los Angeles, partly contiguous with the Santa Monica Mountains NRA. The proposed Rim of the Valley Unit would be administered as part of the Santa Monica Mountains NRA and an updated management plan for the park would be required within three years of enactment. Provisions are included in the bill to ensure that the inclusion of the Rim of the Valley lands in the Santa Monica Mountains NRA would not interfere with specified existing uses.

The Santa Monica Mountains NRA was established by Congress in 1978 to help preserve and protect the natural resources of the Santa Monica Mountains and the adjacent coastline and provide outdoor recreational opportunities within the vicinity of densely populated Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Within a boundary encompassing approximately 154,000 acres, the National Park Service (NPS) owns relatively small proportion of the land -- approximately 23,600 acres, or 15percent. Altogether, 58 percent of the land within the boundary is in public ownership. The NPS coordinates actions with State and other public agencies that manage park lands through a cooperative management agreement, which allows all partners to realize cost savings and efficiencies. The NPS also partners with nongovernmental organizations to further the purposes of the NRA.

P.L. 110-229, enacted in 2008, directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of designating all or a portion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of Santa Monica Mountains NRA. The study area consisted of approximately 650,000 acres of land

within the mountains encircling the San Fernando, La Crescenta, Santa Clarita, Simi, and Conejo Valleys. The study's preferred alternative, among four alternatives evaluated, recommended an expansion of approximately 173,000 acres of lands judged to have the highest concentration of resource values and recreational opportunities. The preferred alternative also recognized a limited role for National Park Service land ownership, as is the case within the existing national recreation area, and a continuation of the existing collaborative partnership-based management model. The study team conducted extensive public outreach throughout the study process and throughout the region, receiving approximately 7,200 comment letters during the study period; more than 90% of comment letters preferred a much larger alternative than the recommendation transmitted to Congress. The study was transmitted to Congress on February 16, 2016.

S. 1993 differs in several ways from the preferred alternative transmitted to Congress. S. 1993 would include a greater number of acres of land within the boundary, approximately 191,000, than the approximately 173,000 acres the preferred alternative proposed. Additionally, the bill would remove all properties contained in the 2016 recommendation that are identified by the State of California as containing oil and gas operations, as well as the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. These changes would eliminate any unintentional regulatory burden to gas and oil development and prevent the transfer of Federal lands at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, and their associated facilities, including clean-up costs, to the National Park Service. Finally, S. 1993 would add lands to the east of the City of Santa Clarita and in the western Santa Susana mountains for the purpose of regional trail connections.

If the committee decides to act on this legislation, the Department would like to provide an updated legislative map to reference in the bill.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 2441, S. 2570, AND S. 2604, BILLS PROVIDING REVISED AUTHORITIES FOR THE STEEL INDUSTRY AMERICAN HERITAGE AREA, THE ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, AND THE OIL REGION NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

#### **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 2441, S. 2570, and S. 2604, bills providing revised authorities for the Rivers of Steel Heritage Area, the Essex National Heritage Area, and the Oil Region National Heritage Area, respectively.

The Department recognizes that each of these entities serves an important role in preserving, interpreting, and promoting the unique natural and cultural characteristics that led to their designation as national heritage areas by Congress. However, we do not support extending authorities for these heritage areas to continue to receive Federal funding, especially at a time when we are focusing resources on reducing the National Park Service's \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical national park needs. The Department has no objection to the provision in S. 2604 that updates the name of the management entity for the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

- S. 2441 would repeal the funding limitation for the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, which is currently \$17 million and is expected to be reached in FY 2019. The Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area tells the story of the industrialists and workers who shaped the American steel industry starting from southwestern Pennsylvania.
- S. 2570 would repeal the funding authorization sunset and the total funding limitation for the Essex National Heritage Area. This national heritage area's funding limitation of \$17 million is expected to be reached in FY 2020, and its funding authority will sunset at the end of FY 2021. Essex National Heritage Area in eastern Massachusetts highlights colonial settlements, maritime adventures, and centuries of American growth.
- S. 2604 would extend the funding authorization sunset through FY 2026, and the funding limitation to \$20 million, for the Oil Region National Heritage Area. The funding authorization will sunset either in late 2019 or early 2020 (depending on the interpretation of when funds were first made available). This heritage area's current funding limitation of \$10 million, however, is not expected to be reached for several years. The bill also would substitute in law the name used by the heritage area's management entity, the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry, and Tourism, for the name used previously, the Oil Heritage Region, Inc. The Oil Region National Heritage Area commemorates the region surrounding Edwin Drake's oil well of 1859 near Titusville, Pennsylvania, which gave rise to the modern oil industry.

There are currently 49 Congressionally designated national heritage areas. Several more have been proposed for designation in pending legislation. Nearly all of the heritage areas were initially authorized with dates on which their eligibility to receive funding through the National Park Service would sunset, usually a period of 15 years. Nearly all were also authorized with a funding limitation, usually \$10 million. Both types of limitations were intended to promote self-sufficiency for the heritage areas. The Department urges the Committee to return to that original concept by refraining from acting on bills extending these authorities.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 2672, TO AUTHORIZE THE SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO THE FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT LOCATED ON FEDERAL LAND IN PRESIDENT'S PARK IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

#### August 15, 2018

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2672, a bill to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal land in President's Park in Washington, D.C.

The Department appreciates the effort to recognize the servicemen and women who gave their lives while serving with the First Infantry Division during Operations Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, and Enduring Freedom. The Department does not object to S. 2672, but we note that the modifications authorized by the bill are inconsistent with the Commemorative Works Act (CWA). The CWA was enacted in 1986 as a way to provide a statutory process for creation, design, and construction of commemorative works in the District of Columbia.

S. 2672 would authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to modify the existing First Division Monument, located in President's Park, by placing plaques, and stone plinths on which to place the plaques, that list the names of the members of the First Infantry Division who died during Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The First Division Monument was conceived by the Society of the First Division, the veteran's organization of the U.S. Army's First Division, to honor the soldiers who fought in World War I. The monument was dedicated on October 4, 1924, by President Calvin Coolidge. Since that time, it has been modified several times. In 1957, the monument was expanded in order to recognize the First Infantry Division soldiers who died in World War II. A Vietnam War addition was dedicated in 1977, and a Desert Storm plaque was included in 1995.

The First Division Monument is located in an area designated by Congress in the 2003 amendments to the CWA as the Reserve – an area in which no new commemorative works shall be located. As Congress noted in the law creating the Reserve, "...the great cross-axis of the Mall in the District of Columbia...is a substantially completed work of civic art; and ...to preserve the integrity of the Mall, a reserve area should be designated...where the siting of new commemorative works is prohibited." The First Division Monument's location within the Reserve means that it is part of this completed work of civic art. As such, an addition to the existing monument would be inconsistent with this prohibition.

Furthermore, section 2(d) of S. 2672 includes an explicit exemption from two sections of the CWA, section 8903(b) and section 8903(c). Section 8903(b) provides that memorials to an individual unit of an armed force may not be authorized, and that memorials are limited to those that commemorate a branch of the armed forces. The First Division is an individual unit of the Army. Section 8903(b) also provides that that commemorative works to a major military conflict may not be authorized until at least 10 years after the officially designated end of the conflict. This time period has not elapsed for Operation Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, or for Operation Enduring Freedom. With respect to Section 8903(c), this exemption does not appear to be necessary, as this section applies to non-military groups and individuals.

Finally, the Department notes that at the May 15, 2018, meeting of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, the Commission reviewed H.R. 5424, a bill substantively identical to S. 2672. It was the consensus of the Commission that while they ordinarily hold strictly to the CWA when evaluating proposed memorial legislation and would not support granting exemptions, particularly regarding commemorative works located within the Reserve, in this case they agreed that the legislation appears to be consistent with the original purpose of the First Division Monument and with subsequent Congressional authorizations for additional names. They also recognized that the Society of the First Division has made every effort to respect the integrity of the Monument. Their conclusion was that it would be arbitrary to no longer permit the addition of names at this point. The Commission submitted a letter to the Committee dated August 2, 2018, providing their assessment.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING H.R. 5751 AND S. 2831, BILLS TO REDESIGNATE GOLDEN SPIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AND TO ESTABLISH THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD NETWORK.

#### **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 5751 and S. 2831, bills to redesignate Golden Spike National Historic Site and to establish the Transcontinental Railroad Network.

The Department supports redesignating Golden Spike National Historic Site as Golden Spike National Historical Park, which is in keeping with Secretary Zinke's commitment to highlight less-visited units of the National Park System (System). As we approach the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the May 10, 1869, "Last Spike" ceremony marking the completion of the first transcontinental railway, this is a fitting time to enact this redesignation. The Department supports the goals of the other provisions of H.R. 5751 and S. 2831, but has concerns, as explained in this statement, and would like to work with the Committee on amendments to address those concerns.

Section 3 of both bills would redesignate Golden Spike National Historic Site (Site) as Golden Spike National Historical Park (Park) and include it in the Transcontinental Railroad Network that would be established by Section 4. The Site preserves 2,735 acres of land where the Union Pacific Railroad and the Central Pacific Railroad came together to form the first transcontinental railroad, linking the United States politically, economically and physically. Set in a vast open landscape mostly unchanged from 1869, the Site retains an unparalleled concentration of historic transcontinental railroad engineering features, archeological sites, and associated cultural landscape elements. It is the only System unit that preserves physical evidence of the technology and methods involved in construction, completion, and maintenance of the transcontinental railroad. The National Park Service (NPS) operates replica locomotives "Jupiter" and "No. 119" daily in the summer. These provide visitors with a unique opportunity to learn about the transcontinental railroad.

The transcontinental railroad was among the greatest technological feats of the 19th Century and represents one of the most ambitious and expensive projects ever undertaken by the federal government. The daunting task of construction across vast expanses of the country, within a relatively short time frame, required the government to forge creative partnerships with private corporations to accomplish this unprecedented construction feat. The legacy of this government-corporate partnership, and the fierce competition it spawned between rival railroad companies, is clearly reflected in the parallel grades and other features. Thousands of people, including Civil War veterans, Buffalo Soldiers, Mormons, and American Indians, as well as immigrants from

Ireland, China, and other nations, were employed in the railroad's construction, often toiling under the harshest of conditions in some of the most remote and difficult landscapes of the West. The Site offers a walking trail and two opportunities to drive the transcontinental railroad grade and see what workers were building in 1869, including the "10 Miles of Track, Laid in one Day" sign where the Central Pacific Railroad built 10 miles and 56 feet of track on April 28, 1869.

Golden Spike National Historic Site was first designated a national historic site on April 2, 1957, by Secretary of the Interior Fred Seaton using the authority of the 1935 Historic Sites Act. The Site consisted of seven acres of land owned by the Central Pacific Railway Company. Eight years later, through Public Law 89-102, enacted July 30, 1965, Congress authorized the acquisition of approximately 2,200 acres of land for the Site and placed it under the administration of the NPS. Most of the land acquisition, which included 15 miles of historic railroad grade and associated archeological features that remained from the construction, was completed in 1966 and 1967. The Site's boundary was expanded by 532 acres through Public Law 96-344, enacted September 8, 1980, mainly to protect additional cultural features.

The NPS encourages Congress to follow a standard pattern of nomenclature for units of the System, and prefers that the term "national historical park" be reserved for units of greater physical extent and complexity than typical national historic sites, which are sometimes smaller than one acre with a single historic structure. Today, among System units that are designated "national historic sites," Golden Spike, at 2,735 acres, is second in size only to the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. Given the Site's size and the complexity of the resources that are managed at the Site, the Department believes that it is wholly appropriate to redesignate Golden Spike National Historic Site as Golden Spike National Historical Park.

Section 4 of both bills would establish a Transcontinental Railroad Network program (Network). The Department supports the goal of raising the profile of other transcontinental railroad sites and resources and promoting opportunities for visitors to learn about this chapter in our nation's history. However, we note that there has been no study conducted to determine the most appropriate way to commemorate and interpret transcontinental railroad sites and resources nor to define the significance of the objects or sites to be commemorated and interpreted. At a time when the Department is focusing resources on reducing the NPS's \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical national park needs, the Network and the infrastructure needed to support it will be difficult to prioritize.

Section 5 of both bills would create Park-specific processes and timelines for authorizing adjacent landowners to undertake certain activities in historical crossings. NPS superintendents currently have the delegated authority to approve or deny requests from stakeholders related to many types of activities on NPS lands, including issuing special use permits, approval of amendments, and renewals of existing rights-of-way, pursuant to Director's Order #53: Special Park Uses. Authority to approve new requests for rights-of-way is delegated to NPS regional directors, also pursuant to Director's Order #53. Similarly, Section 6 of both bills would create Park-specific processes and timelines for adjacent landowners to participate in the eradication of invasive species on NPS land. NPS superintendents currently have the delegated authority to approve or deny requests from stakeholders to participate in eradication of invasive species, pursuant to Director's Order #7: Volunteers-in-Parks. The Department is concerned that sections

5 and 6 would create unnecessary new processes that are too broad and do not align with laws, regulations, and policies that generally apply to all units of the System.

As introduced, H.R. 5751 and S. 2831 contained identical text. As amended and passed by the House, H.R. 5751 contains notable differences from the bills as introduced. Changes to H.R. 5751 include:

- Clarifications to the definition of "historical crossing";
- Clarifications related to the initial establishment and administration of Golden Spike National Historic Site;
- A requirement for a study to identify sites, facilities, and programs suitable for inclusion in the Transcontinental Railroad Network;
- A requirement to identify opportunities to enhance the recognition of immigrant laborers' contributions to the history, construction, and legacy of the Transcontinental Railroad in carrying out the Transcontinental Railroad Network;
- A requirement for entering into a programmatic agreement with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office and other consulting parties and a Park-specific process for authorizing adjacent landowners to undertake certain activities in historical crossings; and
- · Clarifications related to invasive species control.

We appreciate the changes the House made to H.R. 5751 after the bill's introduction. However, the Department has additional concerns that remain unaddressed. As the Committee moves forward on this legislation, we would like to work with the Committee and the bills' sponsors to resolve remaining issues.

With visitation at Golden Spike National Historic Site on the rise for several years now, the NPS looks forward to working with partners to host a grand and memorable 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. The sesquicentennial year presents unique opportunities to increase partnerships in support of the park, as well as increase awareness and understanding of the transcontinental railroad's significant role in our nation's history.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 2870, TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF THE SITE KNOWN AS "AMACHE" IN THE STATE OF COLORADO.

#### **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 2870 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site known as "Amache" in the State of Colorado.

The Department recognizes that Amache, also known as the Granada Relocation Center, would be an appropriate subject for a special resource study. However, we do not support enactment of S. 2870 at this time, as we are focusing resources on reducing the National Park Service's \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical national park needs. In addition, the National Park Service has not yet completed 20 studies on other sites that Congress previously authorized to determine if these specific areas meet the appropriate criteria for designation as new park units, national heritage areas, national trails, or wild and scenic rivers.

This study authorized by this bill would determine whether Amache meets the statutory criteria for inclusion in the National Park System of national significance, suitability, and feasibility, and the need for National Park Service management. The study would also consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the resources by the Federal government, State or local government entities, or private and non-profit entities. Alternatives might include, for example, the designation of the site as an affiliated area of the National Park Service, where the National Park Service would provide technical assistance to the site but not own or manage it. We estimate the cost of the study to range from \$200,000 to \$400,000, based on similar types of studies conducted in recent years.

Amache is located one mile outside Granada, in southeastern Colorado. During World War II, Amache was one of 10 major sites built by the War Relocation Authority to detain Japanese Americans forcibly removed from the West Coast of the United States under the terms of Executive Order 9066. Approximately 10,000 people of Japanese descent were detained in Amache while it was in operation. The town of Granada owns the site, and the Amache Preservation Society maintains it. Visitors can observe extensive structural remains and artifacts from the incarceration period as well as archeological evidence of land use around the site prior to World War II. Many of the concrete features contain inscriptions of dates and names of people who were incarcerated there.

Amache was designated as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior on February 10, 2006. Two organizations, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and

Colorado Preservation, Inc., have used grants received through the National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program since 2006 to help preserve and interpret the resources at Amache.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 2876, TO AMEND THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.

# **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 2876 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Pike National Historic Trail.

The Department recognizes that the Pike trail would be an appropriate subject for a historic trail study. However, we do not support enactment of S. 2876 at this time, as we are focusing resources on reducing the National Park Service's \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical national park needs. In addition, the National Park Service has not yet completed 20 studies on other sites that Congress previously authorized to determine if these specific areas meet the appropriate criteria for designation as new park units, national heritage areas, national trails, or wild and scenic rivers.

The study authorized by this bill would evaluate a series of routes extending approximately 3,664 miles, which would follow the route taken by Lt. Zebulon Montgomery Pike during the 1806–1807 Pike expedition that began in Fort Bellefontaine, Missouri, extended through portions of the States of Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, and ended in Natchitoches, Louisiana. It would be conducted in accordance with the criteria for national historic trail studies under the National Trails System Act and would include a determination as to whether the trail is nationally significant and whether it is physically possible to develop a trail along a route being studied and financially feasible. The study would cost an estimated \$500,000, based on similar studies of long-distance trails.

The Pike expedition was the first American-led effort to explore the Rocky Mountains and is an important part of the history of Colorado and the American Southwest. U.S. Army General James Wilkinson launched the expedition to provide an escort for Osage Indians traveling from St. Louis back to their villages, make contact with Native American groups on the plains, explore the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red Rivers, and collect information about the Spanish along the southwestern border of the Louisiana Purchase. Lt. Pike and his men explored the headwaters of the Arkansas and Platte Rivers in Colorado before crossing the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, near both the present-day Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, and the headwaters of the Rio Grande River. Pike's group built a small stockade near modern-day Alamosa, Colorado, where they were captured by the Spanish and taken back to Mexico. Pike and the majority of his men were returned to U.S. territory at Natchitoches, Louisiana, on June 30, 1807.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING H.R. 4895 AND S. 2889, TO ESTABLISH THE MEDGAR EVERS HOME NATIONAL MONUMENT IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

# **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 4895 and S. 2889, bills to establish the Medgar Evers Home National Monument in the State of Mississippi, and for other purposes.

The Department supports enactment of H.R. 4895 and S. 2889 with amendments described later in this statement. As a nationally significant civil rights site, where the owner has indicated a desire to donate the property for inclusion in the National Park System, the Medgar Evers Home represents an exceptional opportunity to preserve and interpret for future generations one of the most crucial stories of the African American civil rights movement of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century.

H.R. 4895 and S. 2889 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Medgar Evers Home National Monument after meeting specified requirements. The proposed boundary of the monument includes land within the Medgar Evers National Register District and the Medgar and Myrlie Evers National Historic Landmark. The bills include authorities for land acquisition and administration that are commonly included in legislation establishing a unit of the National Park System.

Medgar Wiley Evers was born in 1925 in Decatur, Mississippi. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943, fought in both France and Germany during World War II, and received an honorable discharge in 1946. His wife, Myrlie Beasley, was born in 1933 and grew up in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Medgar and Myrlie met while enrolled as students at Alcorn College in Lorman, Mississippi. They were married in 1951 and had three children: Darrell, Reena, and James.

Medgar and Myrlie Evers were major contributors to advancing the goals of the civil rights movement by combining local, grassroots strategies in Mississippi with national organization efforts to change laws and policies related to voting rights, public education, and public accommodations. Medgar Evers was the first Mississippi field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and was at the forefront of every major civil rights event in Mississippi from 1955 until his assassination in 1963. He traveled constantly to work on voter registration drives around the state; investigated the murders of African Americans such as Emmett Till, George Lee, and others; worked behind the scenes with James Meredith and Clyde Kennard to integrate Mississippi's white universities; and was involved in direct action campaigns such as the beach wade-ins on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the library read-ins and the economic boycott of downtown Jackson.

While Medgar was the public face of the NAACP in Mississippi, Myrlie Evers worked behind the scenes running the NAACP field office in Jackson, drafting speeches, and providing personal and logistical support for her husband and other civil rights workers. After her husband's death, Myrlie took on a public, active role in the civil rights movement. Soon after his funeral, she began speaking at NAACP events across the nation, eventually becoming the first woman to chair the board of the NAACP from 1995 to 1998.

The assassination of Medgar Evers on June 12, 1963, in the carport of the couple's home was the first murder of a civil rights leader that focused national attention on the civil rights movement. His death heightened public awareness throughout the United States of civil rights issues and became one of the catalysts for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Evers family donated their home to Tougaloo College in 1993. Located in Jackson's Elraine Subdivision, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the first post-World War II subdivision created for middle-class African Americans in Mississippi. Restored by the College, the home is operated as a museum commemorating the life of Medgar and Myrlie Evers. Guided tours of the house are available to the public by appointment. The Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home, located within the Medgar Evers Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2016. On August 3, 2018, Secretary Ryan Zinke added the Medgar and Myrlie Evers home to the U.S. Civil Rights Network to further recognize its significance in the history of the African American civil rights movement.

The National Park Service is in the process of conducting a Congressionally authorized special resource study of Mississippi's nationally significant civil rights sites, including the Evers home and many of the locations Medgar investigated during his work with the NAACP. Strong local support for including the home in the National Park System has been indicated through public meetings and comments. Tougaloo College, which owns the home, is prepared to donate the property for inclusion in the proposed unit. All funding for the unit would be subject to National Park Service priorities and the availability of appropriations.

The Department recommends that S. 3176 and H.R. 5979 be amended in the following ways:

First, H.R. 4895 and S. 2889 would name the site the "Medgar Evers Home National Monument". The Department recommends adding Myrlie's name to make it the "Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument". This amendment would provide recognition for Myrlie's own important contributions to furthering the advancement of the civil rights movement, and it would make the name consistent with the National Historic Landmark designation.

Second, the bills include two conditions for establishing the Medgar Evers Home as a unit of the National Park System: (1) entering into an agreement for donation of the property, and (2) acquiring sufficient land to constitute a manageable unit. Because land must be acquired prior to the establishment of the Monument, an agreement evidencing an intent to donate land is a precondition that does not need to be included in the legislation. We therefore recommend striking the first condition.

Third, the bills require the National Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with Tougaloo College for interpretive and educational programming related to the national monument. The Department recommends amending the bills to allow flexibility for the National Park Service and Tougaloo College to determine the best way to work in partnership to further the purposes of the new unit rather than requiring a specific type of agreement for a specific purpose.

Fourth, the bills provides land acquisition authority by means of donation, purchase with donated funds, or exchange. The Department recommends amending the bill to also include the authority to purchase lands with appropriated funds. Such authority is common for other National Park Service units. That authority would allow the owners of private property within the boundary the opportunity to sell their lands to the Federal government. Even if the owners are not interested in selling their land at the current time, this authority provides the flexibility for them to make that decision in the future if circumstances change. Before the National Park Service would seek to acquire any property, whether by purchase, donation, or exchange, it would take into consideration the condition of any structures on the property that would add to the Service's deferred maintenance backlog. Any funding to purchase land would be subject to future appropriations from Congress.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THR DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 3176 AND H.R. 5979, BILLS TO ESTABLISH THE MILL SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT IN THE STATE OF KENTUCKY AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM. AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

# **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3176 and H.R. 5979, bills to establish the Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument in the State of Kentucky as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports enactment of S. 3176 and H.R. 5979 with amendments described later in this statement. As a nationally significant Civil War site, where the principal owner has indicated a desire to donate the battlefield property including a visitor center for inclusion in the National Park System, the Mill Springs Battlefield represents an exceptional opportunity to preserve and interpret for future generations a critical chapter in Civil War history.

S. 3176 and H.R. 5979 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument as unit of the National Park System after meeting specified requirements. The proposed boundary of the monument includes land within the Mill Springs National Historic Landmark and also visitor and administrative facilities outside of the Landmark. The bills include authorities for land acquisition and administration that are commonly included in legislation establishing a unit of the National Park System.

The Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky, on January 19, 1862, was the battle that led to the total collapse of the eastern portion of the Confederate line designed to protect Kentucky and hopefully bring its allegiance to the South. Mill Springs is considered to be the first significant Union victory in the western theater of the Civil War; it permitted Federal troops to carry the war into Middle Tennessee a few weeks later. This Union victory, after a long line of defeats, reenergized the Northern war interests and directly led to the battles of Columbus, Fort Henry and Fort Donelson; the fall of Nashville; and battles at Shiloh and Corinth. Kentucky's importance to the Union has been demonstrated many ways, most significantly by President Abraham Lincoln's famous quote, "I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky." After Mill Springs, the Union held control of Kentucky throughout the war.

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1994, Mill Springs Battlefield was recognized in the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report as a Preservation Priority One battlefield, indicating it has the characteristics of high integrity, significance, and threats that warrant focused preservation action. A local non-profit group, the Mill Springs Battlefield Association Inc. (Association), was formed in 1992 to preserve, maintain, and interpret this important battlefield. The Association has actively worked with the National Park Service American

Battlefield Protection Program and the nonprofit American Battlefield Trust to secure grants to apply towards purchase of battlefield land and to fund archeological surveys and additional scholarly research related to the battle. Ongoing research has resulted in a better understanding of the battle's extent and the historic resources found at Mill Springs, which is reflected in the updated National Register of Historic Places documentation completed in 2009 for the battlefield and associated Civil War era sites. The Association's visitor center, which opened in 2006, includes a reference library and community room; it offers a variety of educational programs to generate public understanding of the significance of the site.

The National Park Service is in the final stages of preparing a Congressionally authorized special resource study on Mill Springs Battlefield. Strong local support for including the site in the National Park System has been indicated through public meetings and comments. The Mill Springs Battlefield Association, a major landowner within the proposed boundary, is prepared to donate its holdings for inclusion in the new unit. All funding for the unit would be subject to National Park Service priorities and the availability of appropriations.

The Department recommends that S. 3176 and H.R. 5979 be amended in the following ways:

First, both bills provide land acquisition authority by means of donation, purchase with donated funds, or exchange. The Department recommends amending the bills to also include the authority to purchase lands with appropriated funds. Such authority is common for other National Park Service units. That authority would allow the owners of private property within the boundary the opportunity to sell their lands to the Federal government. Even if the owners are not interested in selling their land at the current time, this authority provides the flexibility for them to make that decision in the future if circumstances change. Before the National Park Service would seek to acquire any property, whether by purchase, donation, or exchange, it would take into consideration the condition of any structures on the property that would add to the Service's deferred maintenance backlog. Any funding to purchase land would be subject to future appropriations from Congress.

Second, H.R. 5979, but not S. 3176, includes two conditions for establishing Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument as a unit of the National Park System: (1) entering into an agreement for donation of the property, and (2) acquiring sufficient land to constitute a manageable unit. Because land must be acquired prior to the establishment of the Monument, an agreement evidencing an intent to donate land is a precondition that does not need to be included in the legislation. We recommend that H.R. 5979 be amended to conform the language for establishing the unit to that used in S. 3176, which provides for only the second condition.

Third, H.R. 5979, but not S. 3176, includes language stipulating that no private or non-Federal property shall be managed as part of the Monument without the written consent of the landowner. This provision is unnecessary as the National Park Service does not currently have authority to manage non-Federal property as part of a unit in this manner. Furthermore, the addition of this language could be read to suggest that it does have such authority. The Department recommends striking this provision from H.R. 5979.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 3287 AND H. R. 5655, BILLS TO ESTABLISH THE CAMP NELSON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT IN THE STATE OF KENTUCKY AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

# **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3287 and H.R. 5655, bills to establish the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in the State of Kentucky as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports enactment of S. 3287 and H.R. 5655 with amendments described later in this statement. As a nationally significant Civil War site, where the major landowner has indicated a desire to donate property for inclusion in the National Park System, Camp Nelson represents an exceptional opportunity to preserve and interpret for future generations a critical chapter in Civil War history.

S. 3287 and H.R. 5655 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument as a unit of the National Park System after meeting specified requirements. The proposed boundary of the monument includes land within the Camp Nelson National Historic Landmark. The bills include authorities for land acquisition and administration that are commonly included in legislation establishing a unit of the National Park System.

Camp Nelson is nationally significant as one of the nation's largest recruitment and training centers for African American soldiers during the American Civil War and as the site of a large refugee camp for the wives and children of the African American soldiers who were escaping slavery and seeking freedom. Reactions to the November 1864 expulsion of Camp Nelson refugees led to official changes in U.S. Army policy regarding the care of refugees at U.S. Army posts, and assisted in the passage of an act of Congress that freed all wives and children of U.S. Colored Troops. Events at Camp Nelson also influenced the policies and practices of abolitionists and health reformers.

Camp Nelson has excellent archeological integrity and its resources have the potential to provide nationally significant data on questions related to Civil War era economic conditions, social relationships, settlement patterns, material supply, and the daily life of its racially and socially diverse military and civilian populations, as well as data on questions related to camp fortification, and building design and layout. The information gained from these archeological resources has the potential to add to our understanding of the transformation of African American families from enslaved to free, and the survival and persistence of these families and their culture in the face of tremendous adversity.

Camp Nelson Historic and Archeological District was added to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom in 2008 and designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2013. The majority of land included in the Landmark is owned by Jessamine County and managed as a park open to the public. Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park protects and interprets what remains of the historic Civil War-era Camp Nelson site. Because of its rural location, the Camp Nelson site is one of the best-preserved Civil War era depots, hospitals, recruiting centers, and refugee campsites in the nation. Much of the site retains a high level of integrity and the landscape primarily consists of pastures, open fields, and woodlands. Camp Nelson's well preserved landscape includes numerous features from the Civil War era, including earthen fortifications, entrenchments, a depot magazine, building foundations, and historic road remnants. The Oliver Perry House ("White House") is the only surviving extant structure associated with Camp Nelson's historic period of significance.

Strong local support for including the site in the National Park System has been indicated through public meetings and comments. In addition, Jessamine County, the primary landowner within the proposed boundary, is prepared to donate its holdings for inclusion in the new unit. All funding for the unit would be subject to National Park Service priorities and the availability of appropriations.

The Department recommends that S. 3287 and H.R. 5655 be amended in the following ways:

First, S. 3287 and H.R. 5655 would name the site the "Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument". The Department recommends removing "Heritage" from the name, which would make it consistent with the name used for the National Historic Landmark designation. The word "Heritage" does not provide any additional historical significance or meaning to the site.

Second, S. 3287 and H.R. 5655 provide land acquisition authority by means of donation, purchase with donated funds, or exchange. The Department recommends amending the bills to also include the authority to purchase lands with appropriated funds. Such authority is common for other National Park Service units. That authority would allow the owners of private property within the boundary the opportunity to sell their lands to the Federal government. Even if the owners are not interested in selling their land at the current time, this authority provides the flexibility for them to make that decision in the future if circumstances change. Before the National Park Service would seek to acquire any property, whether by purchase, donation, or exchange, it would take into consideration the condition of any structures on the property that would add to the Service's deferred maintenance backlog. Any funding to purchase land would be subject to future appropriations from Congress.

Third, S. 3287 and H.R. 5655 include a reference to a map that was developed by the National Park Service in consultation with the sponsor of H.R. 5655, Representative Barr, as well as local landowners. However, based on additional conversations with these landowners, the National Park Service would recommend referencing an updated map. We would be pleased to provide that map to the bill sponsors and the Committee.

Fourth, S. 3287 and H.R. 5655 include two conditions for establishing Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument as a unit of the National Park System: (1) entering into an agreement for

donation of the property, and (2) acquiring sufficient land to constitute a manageable unit. Because land must be acquired prior to the establishment of the Monument, an agreement evidencing an intent to donate land is a precondition that does not need to be included in the legislation. We therefore recommend striking the first condition.

Finally, H.R. 5655, but not S. 3287, contains language stipulating that no private or non-Federal property shall be managed as part of the Monument without the written consent of the landowner. This provision is unnecessary as the National Park Service does not currently have authority to manage non-Federal property as part of a unit in this manner. Furthermore, the addition of this language could be read to suggest that it does have such authority. The Department recommends striking this provision from H.R. 5655.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 3298, A BILL TO EXTEND THE AUTHORITY OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND, INC., TO ESTABLISH A VISITOR CENTER FOR THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL.

### **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 3298, a bill to extend the authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. (Fund), to establish a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The Department supports S. 3298, which would extend the authority for establishment of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center until 2022. The center's sponsors have obtained the appropriate approvals and should be given more time beyond the current expiration date of November 17, 2018, to continue raising the necessary funds to build the center.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial education center was authorized in 2003 through Public Law 108-126, and a site was identified that would place the visitor center underground northeast of the Lincoln Memorial and just west of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. To protect the integrity of the National Mall's iconic landscape, the National Park Service (NPS) and the Fund worked through extensive design considerations and reviews. This included the public consultation required under the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act as well as the review and approval by the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts required under the Commemorative Works Act. To date, all review requirements have been met and the visitor center design has been fully approved. The NPS has not yet issued a construction permit because the Fund has not yet raised the necessary funds to begin construction.

The visitor center authorization for establishment was extended in 2010 and 2014 with the Department's support. The Department supports the legislation and this effort to honor those who served and sacrificed in Vietnam, but it is important to note the significant costs we expect the NPS to incur once the center is constructed. During consideration of the 2010 visitor center extension, the Congressional Budget Office estimated an NPS outlay of \$2 million per year for the operation of the visitor center. We believe this figure would be substantially higher in today's dollars. All funding for the unit would be subject to National Park Service priorities and the availability of appropriations.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING H. CON. RES. 33, DESIGNATING THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL MUSEUM AND GEORGE C. MARSHALL LIBRARY IN LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA, AS THE NATIONAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

# **AUGUST 15, 2018**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H. Con. Res. 33, a resolution designating the George C. Marshall Museum and George C. Marshall Library in Lexington, Virginia, as the National George C. Marshall Museum and Library.

The Department of the Interior (Department) defers to the Department of Defense and the Department of State for a position on H. Con. Res. 33 since the purpose of the legislation is to confer a national designation on a museum and a library honoring George C. Marshall, a five-star World War II Army general, Secretary of State, and Nobel Peace Prize-winning statesman. The museum and library are located at a site that is not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and this resolution does not call for any management or funding by the National Park Service.

H. Con. Res. 33 would designate the George C. Marshall Museum and the George C. Marshall Library as the National George C. Marshall Museum and Library in Lexington, Virginia. The museum and library are operated by the George C. Marshall Foundation which was established in 1953 to preserve the legacy of General George C. Marshall through educational scholarship and programs and facilities.

The one concern we have with this legislation is that the use of the title "national" could create an expectation among the general public that the museum and library has an affiliation with, or at least some connection to, the Federal government. The Department respectfully encourages the Committee to be thoughtful and judicious in any decision as to whether an entity that has no association with the Federal government should have a "national" title conferred by Congress.

Senator Daines. Thank you, Mr. Smith, for your testimony.

We will now move to questions from the Committee. I will start. I would like to ask you about the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Visitors Center Extension Act, Senate bill 3298, which I introduced with Senator Duckworth.

First, I want to thank the Department for your support of this legislation. It is my understanding that according to your written testimony that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) has obtained the appropriate approvals and worked through very extensive design review and consultation to begin the construction process. At this point, the only thing holding them back is raising the necessary funds. Once they reach the required dollar amount, they will be eligible to receive a construction permit. Is that your understanding?

Mr. Smith. That is also my understanding, Senator, yes.

Senator DAINES. It is also my understanding that part of the obligation of the VVMF is to raise enough money before they receive their construction permit to help pay for ongoing maintenance of the site. Is that also your understanding?

Mr. SMITH. It's my understanding, yes, Senator and also, that that really is the amount that they still need to raise. They've raised, by far, the majority of the money necessary to build this visitor center.

Senator DAINES. How does that work as it relates to the endowment and the maintenance and so forth?

Mr. SMITH. It's been standard process, while I've been with the Park Service over the years, that for these type of construction projects that because of the maintenance that will continue in years later, we do ask for endowments of that type.

There was——

Senator DAINES. So they will have to raise the funds for the construction and they have to raise the funds that match the construction plus another, what, another 10 percent or so to create that endowment? Is that the understanding?

Mr. SMITH. Yes, yes. Senator DAINES. Okay.

Mr. SMITH. And that was the situation for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the same features were input, in that they had to raise money for that endowment. Yes.

Senator Daines. Thank you.

I want to shift gears now to Senate bill 2089, the Medgar Evers and monument designations.

Today we are examining three bills that, if enacted, would establish national monuments. These include Senate bill 3176; Senate bill 3287, introduced by Leader McConnell; and Senate bill 2889, introduced by Senator Wicker. It is my understanding that there is a tremendous amount of local support for each of these designations. It is also my belief that obtaining local support is vital prior to designating a national monument or enacting a new land use decision. It is also my understanding that the Department supports each of these bills.

I did note that your written testimony on Senate bill 2889 suggests a few tweaks to the language which includes the addition of Medgar Evers' wife, Myrlie, in the name of the monument. Could

you talk a bit about the importance of including Myrlie Evers in the name of this monument and why the Department suggested

some small changes to the legislation?

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Chairman, the tragedy that happened to Medgar Evers is well known. His wife was at his side during all the time he served with the NAACP in the civil rights movement in Mississippi. While he was so active around the country, she ran that office in Mississippi. After his death, she took on the role that he had carried forward and she was a full participant in everything for the civil rights movement that was going on at that time. They were partners in life and it's, we feel, it's very important that it should also recognize her contributions to the civil rights movement.

Senator Daines. Thank you for that answer.

One more question and then I am going to yield to the Ranking

Member, Senator King.

I have also noticed in your written testimony the Department is not in support of extending the authority for the national heritage area bills we are considering today—Senate bill 2441, Senate bill 2570 and Senate bill 2604.

As your testimony states, nearly all heritage areas were initially authorized to receive federal funding for a set period of time which is generally 15 years with a cap on that funding which is typically \$10 million. Could you speak to why the Department believes it is important to limit the scope of authorization or repealing caps on these heritage areas?

Mr. Smith. Yes Senator, and I give you these comments realizing

the value that these national heritage areas do have.

In the original heritage areas that were created, and we're up to 49 now and few more are being considered in this Congress, we're now to a point where the funds for those are at about \$20.3 million. Congress has, in the past few years for the new heritage areas, limited those funds to where it's \$150,000 until there's a general management plan and then a cap of \$300,000 after that. The ones that have been grandfathered have up to \$700,000 that are appropriated for them.

The original intent in this wonderful idea for national heritage areas was that there would be a cap on the amount of money that

they received and there would be a sunset clause in those.

Basically, I have testified consistently on the fact that we do not support these bills, primarily because of the National Park Service budget situation that we're in where when we have \$20.3 million going to these heritage areas, it's money that could be used more for the operation of the National Park Service and, of course, in our total budget where we are so concerned about deferred maintenance.

Again, by stating that position, I, in no way, say that these are not very valuable in what they do in their local and regional and states, but it's a budgetary issue and an issue of priorities in the Department at this time.

Senator Daines. Thank you, Mr. Smith.

Senator King.

Senator KING. Mr. Smith, what I am interested in is why some are approved and others are not. There seems to be concern about

the backlog-which we share, and as you know, we are working on that—and concern about expenditures. I am not objecting to the ones that you are approving or that you approve of, but I wonder how you distinguish one from another. The Chesapeake Trail, for example, versus Medgar Evers National Monument versus—I mean, there are any number of different ones—Pike National Historic Trail. How do you make those decisions?

Mr. SMITH. That's an excellent question, Senator.

For the three that we've discussed that are on the parallel track, both through legislation or possibly a designation by the President and the Antiquities Act, those sites are all national historic landmarks. Those sites all have tremendous local support for them to be included in the system. Those sites all have donated properties so there will not be acquisition costs for that land. All three actually have established visitor centers. So they are very unique in coming into the system.

There will be some cost to them, obviously, with staff and certainly some improvements and whatever else, but those are just so significant because of their status of being so significant to our history that we've made the decision that those should be supported.

There's not a moratorium at the Department on new sites. It's just basically a realization that some things, even on some of the studies we talk about on these bills

Senator King. Well, there are two studies that you object to, as

Mr. Smith. Yes. Well, the studies are, part of the studies are a little bit financially, but mostly we've got a backlog of 20 studies right now that we have not completed or have not actually begun. We usually have a three-year timeframe to begin those. So, again Senator, it becomes a budgetary and a priority issue within the Department of how much the system can take at any one time.

But for the ones today, the significance of the three that we've discussed the most, those are just very, very significant and suitable for inclusion in the system and because of the interest of the local constituencies for those, we have made the decision to support those bills.

Senator KING. But I am sure there is local support for the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act. I mean, I am sure there is local support for that in Pennsylvania.

Perhaps you could provide for the record a succinct summary, not case by case, but the general criteria. I can understand, for example, you describe the three as already, in effect, done. They have visitor centers, and they are already national sites of one description or another.

So, really, I think what you are saying is we are changing the name without necessarily changing the obligation of the government, but it would be helpful to me to distinguish because there are 24 bills. I know the sponsors feel strongly about all of them. They all have local support and local interest.

I would be interested if you could submit for the record a narrative of the criteria used to decide that some are entitled to further protection and funding, while others are not. I think that is important, just for our colleagues who are deeply interested in all

of these bills.

Mr. Smith. Senator, we will provide that for the record.

And one other statement on the heritage areas.

Actually, we have that position because that's the original intent of Congress. Congress basically set forward the circumstances under which we do national heritage areas and in the original legislation for all of these there's a sunset clause and an authorization at a certain level. We're actually trying to comply with what Congressional direction has been on these heritage sites.

Senator KING. Okay, I think that is helpful to give us that back-

ground.

Well, I would like to associate myself with the Chairman's comments at the beginning about the extension on the Vietnam area.

I have no objection, whatsoever, to those that you are designating. I just want to be sure that everybody had a fair consideration in terms of these important designations.

Mr. SMITH. Could I speak to the Vietnam Veterans Visitors Center?

Senator KING. Please.

Mr. SMITH. I'm a veteran of the Vietnam War, drafted on Christmas Eve of 1968 and served with the 4th infantry division in Vietnam in '69 and '70. When I came out of the Army I had the privilege, later, of being with the Reagan Administration when Jan Scruggs and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund accomplished what they did to build that memorial. I was there on the day we broke ground for it, I was there on the day when President Reagan dedicated it and I think that the position that the Department has taken there is a very necessary one.

Our country has been at war for quite a while now, but we've had the support of the American people. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the country was in a tremendous social upheaval and I think it's very important that that story be told. I thank you for the personal privilege to add that to the record.

Senator KING. I am glad that you did. Thank you very much, and thank you for your service.

Mr. Chairman.

Senator Daines. Thank you, Senator King.

I, too, thank you for those comments and for your service to our country.

I also would agree with Senator King's request to further illustrate the rationale behind the decision around what is supported and what is not. I think this will help the Committee if there are some issues around Congressional intent we need to deal with as a Committee and legislate it as something we could take as an item for consideration as well.

If there are no more questions for today, members may also submit follow-up written questions for the record.

This hearing record will be open for two weeks.

I want to thank Mr. Smith for his time, for your service to our country and your testimony today.

The hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 4:30 p.m. the hearing was adjourned.]

# APPENDIX MATERIAL SUBMITTED

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks
August 15, 2018 Hearing: Pending Legislation
Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. P. Daniel Smith

### Question from Senator Angus King, Jr.

Question: All of the proposals offered in the hearing have supporters and positive attributes, and all of the bill proposals that the National Park Service has supported will add maintenance costs to the system. Can you provide the criteria the National Park Service uses to decide why some proposals for inclusion in the National Park System are accepted and why others aren't?

Answer: Each National Park Service-related bill on which the Department of the Interior takes a position is evaluated on its own merits, taking into consideration such factors as the proposal's potential to advance the National Park Service mission, the feasibility of implementation (which includes costs), evidence of public support or opposition, positions taken previously on similar legislation, and Departmental funding priorities. Each piece of legislation before the committee is unique and is treated as such.

Seven of the 25 bills (four subjects) on the agenda of the August 15, 2018 hearing entailed adding new areas, with associated costs and responsibilities, to the National Park System. Three of the subjects involved establishing new units: the Medgar Evers Home (S. 2889/H.R. 4895); Camp Nelson (S. 3287/H.R. 5655); and Mill Springs Battlefield (S. 3276/H.R. 5979). The fourth subject involved expanding the boundary of an existing unit: the Rim of the Valley Unit of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (S. 1993).

The three proposed new units all have characteristics that, taken together, led to the Department's decision to support their addition to the National Park System: they preserve critically important stories in our nation's history, adding to the National Park Service's overall narrative; there is strong public support for adding them to the National Park System; their principal owners are willing to donate the properties, eliminating much of the cost of acquisition; and they are already established as sites open to the public, which minimizes the developmental costs. Even though the Department's highest priority for the National Park Service is reducing the deferred maintenance backlog in existing units, that priority does not automatically preclude the Department's position to support some new units.

In contrast to the three proposed new units, the proposed expansion of the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area would not add substantially to the diversity of resources in the National Park System, nor was there any indication that land within the boundary would be donated. But the expansion would add significant new costs: according to the special resource study on this subject, including the Rim of the Valley Unit would increase the park's annual operating costs by approximately \$9.5 million to \$10.5 million, and that would be for a smaller addition than that proposed by S. 1993 (173,000 acres in the study versus 191,000 acres in the bill). For those reasons, the Department decided not to support this proposal at this time.

The Department's positions on the bills that did not involve the addition of new areas to the National Park System were determined as follows:

# U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks August 15, 2018 Hearing: Pending Legislation Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. P. Daniel Smith

- Two bills (S. 2015, S. 1644) raised the question of whether certain national trails should be identified as units of the National Park System. All national trails are already part of the National Park System; a decision to count them as units is an administrative matter that has no bearing on the trails' operating costs. The Department's position was consistent with views expressed in the past.
- Two pairs of bills (S. 2831/H.R. 571, S. 599/H.R. 1488) proposed the redesignation of
  areas already within the National Park System. Such redesignations have no associated
  costs, other than minimal expenses for new signage, etc. The Department's position on
  these bills was based on adherence to the National Park Service's customary naming
  traditions and was consistent with positions taken on similar redesignation proposals in
  the past.
- Two bills (S. 2870, S. 2876) would authorize new studies, and three bills (S. 2441, S. 2570, S. 2604) would extend funding authorities for national heritage areas. Neither new studies nor heritage areas are priorities for National Park Service funding; the Department's position on these bills was based on consistency with its funding priorities.
- A pair of bills (S. 1987/H.R. 2600) would eliminate a reversionary interest on land conveyed by the Federal government to the State of Iowa. The Department provided no objection to the bill, but has appreciated the Committee and Sponsor's willingness to work with us on refinements.
- Two bills (S. 3298, S. 2672) proposed specific authorities for veterans memorials (the Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center and the Second Division Memorial, respectively), which are located in the area established as the "Reserve" in the Commemorative Works Act. The Department's position on both bills responded to the unique circumstances of both cases related to memorials governed by the Commemorative Works Act.
- On three bills (S. 1926/H.R. 2156, H. Con. Res. 33), the Department deferred to the views of other Federal agencies that have jurisdiction over, or a closer connection to, the subject matter. Deferring to other agencies in such circumstances is a longstanding practice within the Executive Branch.



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\* Chairman Emeritus

August 14, 2018

Honorable Steve Daines United States Senate 320 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write today on behalf of the American Battlefield Trust in support of S.3176 and S. 3287, bills that establish Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument and Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument, respectively. These two historic sites helped decide the outcome of the Civil War in Kentucky, and are worthy of inclusion in the National Park System.

While we support both bills, we have concerns with language that restricts land acquisition by the National Park Service (NPS) at these sites to donation, purchase with donated funds, or exchange. This language would be detrimental to our organization's long-standing efforts to preserve these sites, as they would not allow acquisition through appropriated funds, limiting any compensation to non-profit groups like the Trust for the transfer of preserved lands. We respectfully request this legislation be amended to allow for appropriated funds to be used to acquire land at these sites by NPS.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, as we strongly support legislation to add these historic sites to NPS. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

O. James Lighthizer, President

### Congressman Andy Barr (KY-06)

# Written Testimony on S. 3287 the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act

#### Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

### Subcommittee on National Parks Legislative Hearing

### August 15, 2018

I would like to thank Chairman Steve Daines and Ranking Member Angus King for holding a hearing on this important legislation. Additionally, I would like to thank Majority Leader Mitch McConnell for introducing S.3287, the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act, which would establish the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in Jessamine County, Kentucky, as a unit of the National Park System.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have fought to bring national recognition to Camp Nelson, a site that has the ability to unite the community and inspire a greater understanding and appreciation for this civil war history, African American history, and the compelling story of the struggle for freedom.

My efforts have included introducing, H.R. 5655 the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act, the companion of this legislation, which passed the House of Representatives under suspension of the rules by a vote of 376-4.

Camp Nelson was founded in 1863 as a Union Army supply depot, training center, and hospital for the Federal Armies in Kentucky and Tennessee.

The camp, located in southern Jessamine County, Kentucky, covered 4,000 acres with over 300 buildings and fortifications. It housed 2,000 to 8,000 troops, over 1,000 civilian employees and after 1864, over 3,000 African American refugees. The existing site consists of several important Civil War resources that demonstrate the cultural and historical themes prominent at the time.

The most significant aspect of Camp Nelson's history was its role as the third largest recruitment and training center for U.S. Colored Troops and a home to many of their families. Because of its proximity to the Confederate States, African American men fled to Camp Nelson to enlist and escape slavery. Because the emancipation proclamation did not apply to Kentucky, a slave holding border state which was not a part of the Confederacy, Camp Nelson represented the only avenue for Kentucky slaves to achieve emancipation.

By the time the 13th Amendment was ratified and ended slavery in 1865, seventy percent of Kentucky's slaves had already been emancipated, largely in part to the efforts made at Camp Nelson.

Today, the site at Camp Nelson retains rich archeological evidence including several earthen fortifications and other original landscape features dating back to the Civil War encampment.

Camp Nelson is recognized as a National Historic Landmark, a key requirement to the process of being included as a unit of the National Park System. It is also a part of the Civil War Discovery Trail and the National Underground Railroad Network of Freedom.

Additionally, the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, has recommended to the President that this site become a National Monument. This recommendation is currently open for public comment.

Camp Nelson has proven its ability to unite the people of not just Jessamine County, but the Commonwealth as a whole. Even further, it has the potential to convey nationally significant information about the survival and persistence of African American soldiers and their families as they fought for their freedom.

Over the past few years, I have met with stakeholders and descendants of those who lived and worked at Camp Nelson. It is apparent that this site, based on their testimonies, is important to not only the history of the Commonwealth, but also to the history of the nation.

I would like to thank the local stakeholders who shared their stories and educated me and my staff about the significant contributions of this historical site. Their advocacy and support effectively demonstrated the positive local sentiment about Camp Nelson.

It is one of my goals in Congress to make Camp Nelson a place where the entire nation can experience the rich history it has to offer. With that, I urge the Committee to move the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act through the legislative process.



Larry Hogan, Governor Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor Mark Belton, Secretary Joanne Throwe, Deputy Secretary

August 20, 2018

Chairman Lisa Murkowski Ranking Member Maria Cantwell U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 304 Dirksen Senate Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I write to voice support for S. 1644, a bill to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail a formal "unit" of the National Park System.

The designation of the Trail as a unit will yield important benefits for protection, management and visitor enjoyment of the Trail, including:

- formal recognition of the Trail creates a stronger foundation to develop and manage nationally significant destinations along the Trail;
- 2. greater opportunity for philanthropic financial participation, such as with the more well-known National Parks,
- 3. greater visibility for this East coast exemplar of Native American culture and history; and
- 4. a permanent, place-based anchor for Park Service participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program

Covering over 3,600 miles to commemorate Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake in the early 1600's, the Trail is a nationally significant historic resource, which attracts millions of annual visitors to state and federal parks and other destinations along the Trail. It is one of the longest national trails in the country, and is completely water-based, as the Congress recognized when affirming its historic significance in 2006.

Units of the National Park System are huge economic generators for their local gateway communities and the nation as a whole. In addition, extensive research indicates that water trails improve local economies by bringing increased tourism and new business to the areas in which they are located. Designation of the Trail as provided by S. 1644 would affirm these benefits, and provide incentives for additional investment by "Trail towns" and their business communities.

Without a doubt, its designation as a unit would provide measureable conservation, economic, educational and recreational benefits to the communities and states touched by the Trail. It also affirms its immense national significance. Thank you for your favorable consideration of S. 1644.

Del

Mark Belton Sessetary

> Tawes State Office Building – 580 Taylor Avenue – Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-260-8DNR or toll free in Maryland 877-620-8DNR – dnr.maryland.gov – TTY Users Call via the Maryland Relay

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August 15, 2018

Chairman Lisa Murkowski Ranking Member Maria Cantwell U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 304 Dirksen Senate Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I write to voice our support for S. 1644, a bill to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail a formal "unit" of the National Park System. Our Board of Directors has also approved a resolution supporting unit status (attached).

Although it might appear to be a technicality, this designation of the Trail as a unit of the National Park System will yield important benefits for protection, management and visitor enjoyment of the Trail:

- formal recognition of the Trail and a stronger foundation to develop and manage nationally significant destinations along the Trail;
- more private funding opportunities, such as with the more well-known National Parks; usually limited to higher profile units of the System,
   greater visibility for this East coast exemplar of Native American culture and
- greater visibility for this East coast exemplar of Native American culture and history; and
- a permanent, place-based anchor for Park Service participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program

Covering over 3,600 miles to commemorate Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake in the early 1600's, the Trail is a nationally significant historic resource, which attracts approximately millions of annual visitors to state parks along the Trail (see attached map). It is one of the longest national trails in the country, and is completely water-based, as the Congress recognized when affirming its historic significance in 2006.

In his statement to the Committee, Assistant Director Smith offers inexplicable arguments for opposition to S. 1644, notwithstanding his support of unit status for every scenic trail, which is administered by the Service. While suggesting properly that an historic trail "does not necessarily need to be a continuous, protected corridor", he argues that protection of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail is somehow "not feasible", owing to its status as "an imprecise, continuous route". Captain Smith and the Park Service itself might disagree; through its publication of the right of way in the Federal Register on May 27, 2016, the Park Service has published an official map of the entire Trail. Moreover, the Park Service has published a comprehensive management plan for the Trail, which identifies those specific sites that are deserving of special attention.

Units of the National Park System are huge economic generators for their local gateway communities and the nation as a whole. In addition, extensive research indicates that water trails improve local economies by bringing increased tourism and new business to the areas in which they are located. Designation of the Trail as provided by S. 1644 would affirm these benefits, and provide incentives for additional investment by "Trail towns" and their business communities.

Although it is stated National Park Service policy to manage and administer national park units and national parks that do not have unit status equally, in reality important differences exist. For example, national historic trails are not depicted in the National Park Service's popular "Map and Guide" publication, and generally not shown on state highway maps, in tourist guide books, or by destination marketing organizations. Significant differences can also be found in the NPS Greenbook of budgets and full time equivalent employees, with non-units receiving significantly less support in each category.

We understand that the Park Service may be reluctant to confer unit status, largely due to budget constraints. As we have already demonstrated, the Conservancy's partnership with the Park Service has generated substantial philanthropic support, and provided effective co-management of the Trail. To these ends, we are committed to an expansion of the partnership, in cooperation with the Park Service, the Chesapeake Bay Program, and the communities that abut the Trail. And, if the Assistant Director is concerned about "unequal treatment", which appears to compel his recommendation that all scenic trails be given unit status, we'd have no objection to all historic trails being treated equally to one another, and to scenic trails.

There is strong bi-partisan support for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail from across the region, and we have no doubt that its designation as a unit would provide measureable conservation, economic, educational and recreational benefits to the communities and states touched by the Trail.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of S. 1644.

Sincerely

For Dunn President and CEO



### **RESOLUTION #8 12.17.15**

To formally recommend the designation of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic
Trail as a UNIT of the National Park System

WHEREAS, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (Trail) was established by Congress in 2006 to commemorate John Smith's historic 3,000-mile voyages of discovery on land and water around the Chesapeake; to help promote the conservation, public enjoyment, and appreciation of the Chesapeake watershed's rich natural and cultural history; and to provide for recreational opportunities along the Trail; and

WHEREAS, 16 U.S.C. Section 1244(a)(25)(C) specifically states that the Trail is to be administered by the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, the General Authorities Act of 1970 defined the National Park System as "any area of land and water now or hereafter administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service for park, monument, historic, parkway, recreational, or other purposes"; and

WHEREAS, the Trail is administered by the National Park Service for park, historic, recreational, and other purposes but is not currently considered to be a "unit" of the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, three National Trails – the Appalachian, Potomac Heritage, and Natchez Trace Trails – have been designated and administered by the National Park Service as "units" of the National Park System and are regarded as part of the "core mission" of the National Park Service, rather than an external function; *and* 

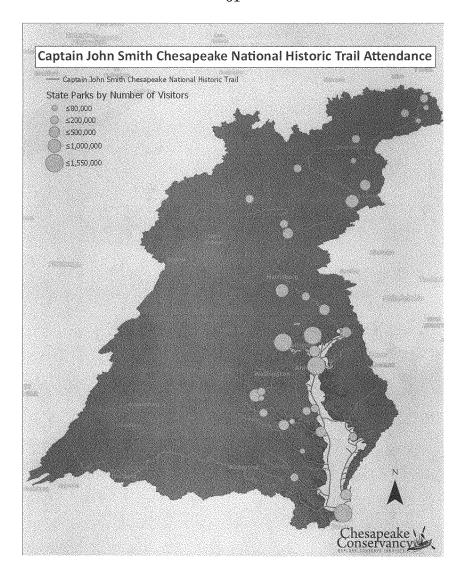
WHEREAS, the National Park Service will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016, initiating a second century of stewardship of American's national park system; and

WHEREAS, designating the Trail as a "unit" of the National Park System would be a fitting way to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Trail, and the centennial of the National Park Serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF THE CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY hereby urges the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service to take such actions as are necessary to designate and administer the Trail as a "unit" of the National Park System by 2016.

WITNESS the signature of the undersigned as of this 17th day of December, 2015.

Dr. Mamie Parker, Secretary





23920 Valencia Boulevard \* Santa Clarita, California 91355-2196 Phone: (661) 259-2489 \* FAX: (661) 259-8125 www.santa-elarita.com

August 8, 2018

The Honorable Steve Daines Chairman

Subcommittee on National Parks
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Marsha McLean Mayor Pro Tem

Laurene Weste Mayor

Subject: S. 1993: SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Daines:

Bob Kellar Councilmember On behalf of the City of Santa Clarita, California, I am writing to express the City Council's support for S. 1993 (Feinstein), which is scheduled to be considered by the Subcommittee on National Parks on August 15, 2018. The measure seeks to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor. I urge you and your committee colleagues to support

Bill Miranda Councilmember

Cameron Smyth Councilmember

The City of Santa Clarita has been working closely for a number of years with Senator Feinstein, Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA-28), and Representative Steve Knight (R-CA-25) on this important legislation, particularly as it impacts the City of Santa Clarita. This bi-partisan effort to expand the boundaries of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include portions of our community within the Rim of the Valley Corridor is deeply appreciated and most welcome.

The City of Santa Clarita is located in north Los Angeles County, between the northern and southern sections of the Angeles National Forest. The expansion of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, as proposed in S. 1993, will recognize the efforts of the City of Santa Clarita to work in partnership with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, state, regional and local government entities, as well as the private sector and non-profit organizations to preserve, protect, enhance and provide connectivity to existing federal resources. The City of Santa Clarita has acquired over 9,300 acres of open space, which is designed to provide our residents with unparalleled recreational conoctinities; while enhancing and creating

residents with unparalleled recreational opportunities; while enhancing and creating access opportunities with existing open space ownerships, such as the Angeles

S. 1993 sets the stage for continuing the excellent partnerships between government at all levels, and the private sector to enhance existing public resources. This bill



The Honorable Steve Daines August 8, 2018 Page 2

leverages a modest federal investment in partnership with other levels of government and the private sector to yield tremendous returns to the residents of our community and other communities within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

On behalf of the Santa Clarita City Council, I urge you and your colleagues on the Subcommittee to support S. 1993. Should you or your staff require additional information regarding the city of Santa Clarita's support for S. 1993, please contact Intergovernmental Relations Manager Michael Murphy at (661) 255-4384 or mmurphy@santa-clarita.com.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of my request.

Laurene Weste

Mayor

LW:MPM:sk s\ms\mpm\LW Correspon

Chairman Daines S.1993 ROTV SMMNRA Support 08-08-18

cc: Members of the City Council Senator Angus King, Ranking Member Senator Dianne Feinstein Senator Kamala Harris

Representative Steve Knight Kenneth W. Striplin, City Manager

Leadership Team

Michael Murphy, Intergovernmental Relations Manager

John O'Donnell, Washington Representative



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August 8, 2018

The Honorable Steve Daines Chairman

Laurene Weste Subcor

Subcommittee on National Parks

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

304 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Marsha McLean Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor

Dear Chairman Daines:

Bob Kellar Councilmember On behalf of the City of Santa Clarita, California, I am writing to express the City Council's support for S. 1926 (Harris) and H.R. 2156 (Knight), which are scheduled to be considered by the Subcommittee on National Parks on August 15, 2018. These two measures seek to establish the St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial and National Monument. The Santa Clarita City Council has

Bill Miranda Councilmember voted unanimously to support both of these bills.

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S. 1926 and H.R. 2156 appropriately recognize and memorialize the collapse of the St. Francis Dam on March 12, 1928. The dam collapse resulted in a tremendous loss of life and property; a California disaster surpassed only by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. In this 90th year since the tragedy occurred, it is appropriate for Congress to establish a national memorial and national monument to commemorate and honor the victims of the St. Francis Dam collapse.

Cameron Smyth Councilmember

While there are many lessons to be learned from the disaster, perhaps the most long-lasting on a national scale resulted in changes to dam construction techniques. No region should ever face the devastation created by the failure of a dam, as occurred in the Santa Clarita Valley and other communities that were in the pathway of the raging flood waters.

The creation of a national memorial and national monument will honor those who were killed, injured or survived that horrific event. Their individual and collective stories will be brought forward for future generations to better understand the history of the Santa Clarita Valley and downstream communities that were impacted by the dam disaster. The designation will also serve to

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The Honorable Steve Daines Page 2 August 8, 2018

preserve the remaining historic artifacts and serve as a place of reflection, contemplation and remembrance.

The Santa Clarita City Council is pleased to support S. 1926 and H.R. 2156 and we urge the Subcommittee's support for these two important measures. Should you or your staff require additional information regarding the City of Santa Clarita's support for these two bills, please contact Intergovernmental Relations Manager Michael Murphy at (661) 255-4384 or <a href="mmurphy@santa-clarita.com">mmurphy@santa-clarita.com</a>.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

· / /

Laurene Weste

Mayor

LW:MPM:sk

s\ms\mpm\LW Correspondence\Chairman Daines S.1926-H.R.2156 St. Francis Dam 08-07-18

cc: Members of the City Council Senator Angus King, Ranking Member Senator Kamala Harris Senator Dianne Feinstein Representative Steve Knight Ken Striplin, City Manager Leadership Team

Michael Murphy, Intergovernmental Relations Manager John O'Donnell, Washington Representative



City Counci

2100 Thousand Oaks Boulevard • Thousand Oaks, CA 91302 Phone 805/449,2121 • Fax 805/449,3125 • www.tonks.org

Received in Burbank

Andrew P. Fox Mayor

March 26, 2018

MAR 2 5 2018 Congressman Adam B. Schiff

Honorable Adam B. Schiff Congressman, 28th District 2372 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

RE: HR 4086/SR 1993: RIM OF THE VALLEY PRESERVATION ACT -

NOTICE OF SUPPORT

Dear Representative Schiff:

On behalf of the City of Thousand Oaks, we would like to express our support for the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act (HR 4086/S 1993), which would expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by approximately 191,000 acres to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor. This corridor is a critically important area that connects wilderness areas threatened by development and provides recreational activities for all of Southern California's 18 million residents.

This legislation is the result of a years-long study conducted by the National Park Service, coupled with input from local communities and interested stakeholders, it will help local governments, land owners, and conservation organizations to preserve our beautiful open space and increase access to public lands, while respecting private property rights and local governmental authorities.

The City of Thousand Oaks is surrounded by 15,000 acres of open space, which links to both the Los Padres National Forest and Angeles National Forest, expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. It protects the vital *Rim of the Valley Trall*, that is included in the proposed expansion, and connects to other trails around the region, including the City's trail system, enriching the Santa Monica Mountains as a destination point for recreational opportunities, such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, nature walks, etc.

Expansion would also protect key wildlife corridors between both National forests and would preserve their native habitat for increased wildlife survivability (e.g. mountain lions are a dying breed and this connectivity supports their survivability). The connectivity also enhances the visibility, both nationally and internationally. Expansion of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area will drive greater protection of resources and

HR 4088/SR 1993: Rim of The Valley Preservation Act March 26, 2018 Page 2

increase financial and technical support, including federal funds, towards open space management and preservation.

The City of Thousand Oaks has been working jointly with other cities in the Santa Monica Mountains' sphere to make the area a tourist destination spot. This expansion illustrates that even within an urban region, open space preservation is critical, and connectivity to the surrounding national forests bring nature and wildlife closer to urban communities. The Rim of the Valley Comidor Preservation would enhance the recreational opportunities for residents and would also encourage visitors to the region.

We are pleased that the legislation has bipartisan support in the House of Representatives and look forward to its passage from both the House and Senate so that the lands, wildlife, and recreation opportunities in and around our communities are protected for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Andrew P. Fox

Mayor

c: Congresswomen Julia Brownley Jim Crum, VP, Van Scoyoc Associates Wilton and Mary Bruce Corkern P. O. Box 779 Lusby, MD 20657

August 15, 2018

Chairman Lisa Murkowski Ranking Member Maria Cantwell U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 304 Dirksen Senate Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

My wife and I write to voice our strong support for S. 1644, a bill to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail a formal "unit" of the National Park System. As a former member of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Federal Advisory Council, I believe the designation of the Trail as a unit of the National Park System will yield important benefits for protection, management and visitor enjoyment of the Trail, including:

- formal recognition of the Trail creates a stronger foundation to develop and manage nationally significant destinations along the Trail;
- greater opportunity for philanthropic financial participation, such as with the more wellknown National Parks,
- 3. greater visibility for this East coast exemplar of Native American culture and history; and
- 4. a permanent, place-based anchor for Park Service participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program

Further, as a holder of a PhD in American Studies and as a former graduate-level teacher of American History, Historic Preservation, and Heritage Tourism, I know that the Trail, covering as it does over 3,600 miles to commemorate Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake in the early 1600's, is a nationally significant historic resource, which attracts millions of annual visitors to state and federal parks and other destinations along the Trail. It is one of the longest national trails in the country, and is completely water-based, as the Congress recognized when affirming its historic significance in 2006.

Units of the National Park System are huge economic generators for their local gateway communities and the nation as a whole. In addition, extensive research indicates that water trails improve local economies by bringing increased tourism and new business to the areas in which they are located. Designation of the Trail as provided by S. 1644 would affirm these benefits, and provide incentives for additional investment by "Trail towns" and their business communities.

There is strong bi-partisan support for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail from across the region. Without doubt its designation as a unit would provide

measureable conservation, economic, educational and recreational benefits to the communities and states touched by the Trail as well as affirming the its immense national significance. Thank you for your favorable consideration of S. 1644.

With best wishes, we are,

Sincerely yours,

Wilton and Mary Bruce Corkern

Cc: The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Joel Dunn, Chesapeake Conservancy



August 29, 2018

Chairman Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I write to voice support for S. 1644, a bill to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail a formal "unit" of the National Park System. As a former member of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Federal Advisory Council, I believe the designation of the Trail as a unit of the National Park System will yield important benefits for protection, management and visitor enjoyment of the Trail, including:

- Formal recognition of the Trail will create a stronger foundation to develop and manage nationally significant destinations along the Trail;
- greater opportunity for philanthropic financial participation, such as with the more well-known National Parks,
- 3. greater visibility for this East coast exemplar of Native American culture and history; and
- 4. a permanent, place-based anchor for Park Service participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program,

In Pennsylvania the NPS Chesapeake Bay program designated a Visitor Contact and Passport Station for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail at the Zimmerman Center for Heritage, which is the headquarters for the Susquehanna Heritage, one of our 12 state Heritage Areas. This partnership between NPS and Susquehanna Heritage is an important asset for this region and our state.

Pennsylvania's strong, ongoing relationships with key local agencies such as Susquehanna Heritage and the Lancaster County Conservancy and national partners such as the National Park Service have been instrumental in our ability to successfully preserve over 3,400 acres of land along the Susquehanna River. We have recognized this region as part of our Conservation Landscape Program. The Susquehanna Riverlands Conservation Landscape is a collaboration of communities, organizations and agencies seeking to enhance this rich landscape through increased land protection, natural and cultural resource stewardship, increased public connection to these resources, and promoting sustainable economic development through heritage and outdoor tourism. Designation of the trail as a unit of the National Park System would further enhance the rich experiences offered to the public by these organizations whose share similar missions focused on the Susquehanna River.

2

Covering over 3,600 miles to commemorate Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake in the early 1600's, the Trail is a nationally significant historic resource, which attracts millions of annual visitors to state and federal parks and other destinations along the Trail. It is one of the longest national trails in the country, and is completely water-based, as the Congress recognized when affirming its historic significance in 2006.

Units of the National Park System are huge economic generators for their local communities and the nation as a whole. In addition, extensive research indicates that water trails improve local economies by bringing increased tourism and new business to the areas in which they are located. Designation of the Trail as provided by S. 1644 would affirm these benefits, and provide incentives for additional investment by "Trail Towns" and their business communities.

There is strong bi-partisan support for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail from across the region. Without doubt its designation as a unit would provide measurable conservation, economic, educational and recreational benefits to the communities and states touched by the Trail as well as affirming its immense national significance. Thank you for your favorable consideration of S. 1644.

Sincerely

Cindy Adams Dunn

Secretary

## STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS HEARING ON AUGUST 15, 2018 REGARDING S. 2570

### A BILL TO REPEAL THE FUNDING AUTHORIZATION SUNSET AND THE TOTAL FUNDING CAP FOR THE ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

### SUBMITTED BY ANNIE C. HARRIS, CEO, ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

TO: Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of S. 2570.

The Essex National Heritage Area (MA) received its designation by Congress in 1996 and for the past two decades it has been managed by the non-profit Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC). The national heritage area designation runs in perpetuity, but the authority of ENHC to receive federal funding has a cap and a sunset. The cap and the sunset have been extended by Congress several times. Currently, the authority is capped at \$17m and the sunset is September 30, 2021. The purpose of S. 2570 is to remove the cap and sunset so that ENHC's work is not crippled and the organization can continue to provide economic, cultural and social benefits to the heritage area communities, to the National Park Service, and to the American public.

### Significant Economic Impact in the Region

The annual economic impact of the Essex National Heritage Area is substantial. The *Economic and Community Impact of National Heritage Area Sites*<sup>1</sup>, a recent impact study performed by the economic consultants Tripp Umbach, measured that the Essex National Heritage Area, on average, annually generates \$153.8 million in economic impact in its region. This level of economic activity generates \$14.3 million in tax revenue and supports nearly 2,000 jobs<sup>2</sup>. This impact comes directly from grantmaking, operations, and heritage tourism. ENHC provides grants which are used to leverage thousands of dollars in additional preservation funds. ENHC hires full time and part time staff and during the summer season it employs 35-40 youths, ages 14-22 years, to work a heritage sites within the national heritage area. ENHC inspires on average 450-500 volunteers each year who donate approximately \$750,000 worth of their time to preservation, interpretation and recreational projects. Through ENHC's network of 13 cooperating visitor centers more than 800,000 visitors annually learn about the significant heritage of the region and visit the cultural places that tell these stories. The indirect impact of the national heritage area is much larger and includes lodging accommodations, food service, retail stores, educational facilities, transportation providers, building renovators, landscaping

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Tripp Umbach, Economic and Community Impact of National Heritage Area Sites, February 2014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Umbach, Economic and Community Impact of National Heritage Area Sites, Pg. 4.

services, and more. The national heritage area achieves this impact through formal and informal partnerships that preserve its historic places and use these assets to revitalize communities. Congress's annual appropriations to the Essex National Heritage Area returns big dividends. The annual funding (\$628,000 in FY18) that Essex Heritage receives through the National Park Service Heritage Partnership Program is effectively leveraged, with each \$1.00 of federal funding bringing in another \$4.00 -\$5.00 in additional non-federal funding annually.

### Important Benefits to the National Park Service

Essex National Heritage Area provides significant benefits the two national parks within its boundaries. The national parks are Salem Maritime National Historic Site and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site. Although small in size (9 acres each), these two parks have big, nationally significant stories to tell. Saugus is the birthplace of US Steel and the site of the first successful fully integrated industrial complex in America. The wharves at Salem Maritime and the intrepid seaman who sailed from them launched our nascent nation as an international trading powerhouse. The Essex National Heritage Area assists these parks in telling their stories by magnifying their reach through educational programs, community outreach, regional promotion, and more. In 2012, the National Park Service contracted with the Center for Park Management (CPM) to perform an independent evaluation of the Essex National Heritage Area and ENHC.3 The evaluation speaks in detail about the relationship between NPS and ENHC and concludes that "ENHC's connections to residents and community interests offer many benefits to NPS sites within the heritage area including: (1) broader connection to community, (2) educational and interpretation support, (3) technical assistance, and (4) securing additional resources for NPS."4 In the transmittal letter accompanying this evaluation sent by the Department of the Interior to Congress, it states that "ENHC enhances the capacity of Salem Maritime National Historic Site and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site to interpret their resources and teach the public including providing jobs for youth in the community,"5 and it affirms that "ENHC is often able to procure financial and other types of resources to support key NPS initiatives."6

#### **Valuable Community Benefits**

ENHC works in partnership with the regional tourism council and other destination management organizations to attract heritage tourists to spend more time experiencing the region. It is a widely recognized fact that the longer a visitor stays, the greater the economic benefit to the region and its communities. Through its development of the 90-mile, 14 community Essex Coastal Scenic Byway, ENHC is creating a system of connected heritage sites and businesses that cooperatively pool their marketing and programs for the benefit of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Center for Park Management, Evaluation of the Essex National Heritage Commission Findings Document, November 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> CPM, Evaluation of the Essex National Heritage Commission Findings Document, Pg. 47.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> US Department of Interior Office of the Secretary, *Letter to the Honorable Ron Wyden, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, US Senate*, April 12, 2013. Pg. 1.

<sup>6</sup> US DOI, Letter, Pg. 2.

heritage visitors. Recreational trails are another way in which ENHC is providing regional networks for the benefit of visitors and residents alike. The organization has played a pivotal role in the development of regional bicycle and pedestrian trails that currently link 18 communities in the national heritage area. ENHC also plays an important role in creating educational opportunities throughout the region such as the annual teacher summer program in place-based and community service projects for teachers of grades K-12. For the national heritage area's 750,000 residents, ENHC provides programs such as its annual Trails & Sails event and monthly "pop-ups" which attract people to the lesser known historic, cultural and natural places in the region. The CPM evaluation observes that "ENHC has played a key role in encouraging communities to work together to cultivate a regional identity around the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Essex County."

### **Vital Benefits for Nationally Significant Historic Places**

The Essex National Heritage Area encompasses Essex County, Massachusetts, one of the oldest counties in American settled by Europeans in 1623 and incorporated in 1643. The 500 square mile Area includes a wealth of nationally significant historic and natural resources including 2 national parks (Salem Maritime and Saugus Iron Works), the largest salt marsh in New England which serves as an important refuge for migratory birds, 27 National Historic Landmarks including the oldest continuously operating museum in our nation, and nearly 500 National Register Historic districts and individual listings containing almost 10,000 historic structures. The region is rich in history including the infamous Salem Witch Trials, early American jurisprudence as established by native son Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story, the China Trade, and the early industrial revolution which blossomed along the Merrimack River. The National Heritage Area preserves and promotes these very important American heritage stories through a combination of programs, investments, and partnerships that leverage local manpower and private funding to make investments in heritage preservation, education and interpretation. These investments strengthen the area's cultural tourism which is revitalizing local communities. In the Community Survey that accompanied the ENHC evaluation, respondents answered that "working collaboratively with them (ENHC) they did bring a lot to the project."8 "Further ENHC's organizational development assistance was particularly useful for leaders of small heritage organizations"9 because as a community leader observed "partnering with them definitely helps increase our presence." 10

### **Deleterious Impact of the Loss of Federal Funding**

The Essex National Heritage Area operates as public-private partnership. The modest federal investment is used to attract four to five times more in non-federal and private investment. These non-federal funds come from individuals, organizations, foundations, fees-for-service,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> CPM, Evaluation of the Essex National Heritage Commission Findings Document, Pg. 14.

<sup>8</sup> CPM, Evaluation of the Essex National Heritage Commission Findings Document, Pg. 31.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> CPM, Evaluation of the Essex National Heritage Commission Findings Document, Pg. 31.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> CPM, Evaluation of the Essex National Heritage Commission Findings Document, Pg. 31.

volunteers' donations, and philanthropic gifts. But to be successful in attracting these non-federal funds, the public funding needs to continue. In the US DOI letter to Congress, it states that "losing federal assistance would have a significant negative impact on the resources, partners, and the National Park Service which have all considerably benefited from the work of ENHC." DOI goes on in this letter to say that "The Essex Evaluation illustrates a minimal federal investment can be creatively leveraged to benefit a community, protect heritage resources, and double the federal dollar." Eliminating the modest federal funding puts at risk all of the private, non-federal funds. The National Park Service wrote in its 2014 Snapshot that "without Essex ... collaboration between the area's 34 towns and cities would dramatically decrease. Losing federal assistance would be dire" for ENHC, and the nationally significant places in the heritage area "would face a sudden deterioration in capacity with some having to close their doors."

According to DOI, NPS and CPM's reports and letters, the Essex National Heritage Area "is fulfilling its legislative mandate" <sup>16</sup> and "based on the positive results of the Essex Evaluation, the NPS recommends a future role with the Essex National Heritage Area." <sup>17</sup> Therefore, given the considerable benefits that are derived from this modest federal investment, ENHC encourages your committee to support S. 2570.

<sup>11</sup> US DOI, Letter, Pg. 2.

<sup>12</sup> US DOI, Letter, Pg. 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> National Park Service, Snapshot of Essex National Heritage Area, 2014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> NPS, Snapshot, Pg. 7.

<sup>15</sup> NPS, Snapshot, Pg. 7.

<sup>16</sup> US DOI, Letter, Pg. 2.

<sup>17</sup> US DOI, Letter, Pg. 2.



LANGUAGES, CULTURES AND LINGUISTICS One Dent Drive Lewisburg, PA 17837 570-577-1353 Fax: 570-577-1948 bucknell.edu August 17, 2018

Chairman Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I write to voice support for S. 1644, a bill to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail a formal "unit" of the National Park System. As a former member of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Federal Advisory Council, I believe the designation of the Trail as a unit of the National Park System will yield important benefits for protection, management and visitor enjoyment of the Trail, including:

- formal recognition of the Trail creates a stronger foundation to develop and manage nationally significant destinations along the Trail;
- greater opportunity for philanthropic financial participation, such as with the more well-known National Parks,
- greater visibility for this East coast exemplar of Native American culture and history; and
- 4. a permanent, place-based anchor for Park Service participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program

Covering over 3,600 miles to commemorate Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake in the early 1600's, the Trail is a nationally significant historic resource, which attracts millions of annual visitors to state and federal parks and other destinations along the Trail. It is one of the longest national trails in the country, and is completely water-based, as the Congress recognized when affirming its historic significance in 2006.

Units of the National Park System are huge economic generators for their local gateway communities and the nation as a whole. In addition, extensive research indicates that water trails improve local economies by bringing increased tourism and new business to the areas in which they are located. Designation of the Trail as provided by S. 1644 would affirm these benefits, and provide incentives for additional investment by "Trail towns" and their business communities.

There is strong bi-partisan support for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail from across the region. Without doubt its designation as a unit would provide measureable conservation, economic, educational and recreational benefits to the communities and states touched by the Trail as well as affirming the its immense national significance. Thank you for your favorable consideration of S. 1644.

Sincerely,

Katherine M. Faull, PhD

adjumb Faul

Presidential Professor of German and Humanities Life Member, Clare Hall, University of Cambridge

Co-Chair, Department of Language, Cultures and Linguistics

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act

Hearing Testimony

August 15, 2018

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act.

This legislation would expand the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, adding 191,000 acres to better protect natural resources and improve recreational and educational opportunities for the surrounding communities and visitors alike.

This proposed expansion was recommended by the National Park Service after a six-year special resource study, which included over 7,200 comments from the public, elected officials, local organizations, and other stakeholders. The study was directed by Congress in the

Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act, which passed in 2008.

This bill would significantly increase outdoor recreational opportunities for residents of Los Angeles County, one of the most densely populated and park-poor areas in the country.

Forty-seven percent of Californians, equivalent to six percent of the U.S. population, lives within two hours of the proposed expansion area. Increasing access to public lands in this area will provide these communities with enhanced opportunities to benefit from natural resources and boost the local economy.

Expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area would also protect important habitat for endangered wildlife. This includes species that are almost exclusively found in California, such as the California redlegged frog. Other species protected include mountain lions, bobcats, foxes, badgers, coyotes, and deer.

It is important to note that the Rim of the Valley
Corridor Preservation Act preserves private property rights
and existing local land use authorities. This legislation
would not create any additional liability or restrictions for
private property owners, and the Department of the
Interior would only be allowed to acquire non-Federal land
within the expansion area through exchange, donation, or
purchase from willing sellers.

This bill is supported by more than 50 local municipalities, community groups, and elected officials. I have included several letters of support for submission into the record, including those from the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles, and Mayor Andrew Fox of Thousand Oaks.

I would like to thank my colleague Representative

Adam Schiff for introducing this bill in the House, where it
has bipartisan support.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act. I look forward to working with the Subcommittee to advance this bill.



February 27, 2018

The Honorable Adam Schiff 2411 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schiff:

I would like to express my support for the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act (H.R. 4086 / S. 1993), which would expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by approximately 191,000 acres to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor — including parts of the Los Angeles River.

This corridor is a critically important area that connects wilderness areas threatened by development and provides recreational activities for all of Southern California's 18 million residents.

The Act will further educate the public concerning the importance of our public lands, enable better protection of natural resources and habitats, and provide Angelenos improved access to nature for recreational and educational purposes.

This legislation is the result of a years-long study conducted by the National Park Service with community and stakeholder input. It will help local governments, land owners, and conservation organizations preserve our beautiful open space and increase access to public lands while respecting private property rights and local governmental authorities.

I am pleased that the legislation has bipartisan support in the House of Representatives and look forward to its passage from both the House and

Senate so that the lands, wildlife, and recreation opportunities in and around our communities are protected for generations to come.

Sincerely,

ERIC GARCETTI Mayor, City of Los Angeles

August 15, 2018

Chairman Lisa Murkowski Ranking Member Maria Cantwell U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 304 Dirksen Senate Building Washington, DC 20510

RE: S.1644 - Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Parity Act

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I am writing in support of S. 1644, a bill to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as a formal "unit" of the National Park System. Having served for 10 years as a member of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Federal Advisory Council, I have seen first-hand the many positive impacts of this trail designation. Perhaps most important has been the active engagement of both state and federally recognized tribal groups in the development and interpretation of the trail. Their story, so long overlooked and underappreciated, is critical to our understanding of the impact of Captain John Smith's voyages in the Chesapeake during the early 1600s.

Covering over 3,600 miles, the Trail is one of the longest national trails in the country and is completely water-based. The Trail attracts millions of annual visitors to state and federal parks and other destinations along its route. Designation of the Trail as a unit of the National Park System is needed if we are to improve and sustain protection, management, and visitor enjoyment of the Trail.

Passage of S.1644 - Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Parity Act would:

- create a stronger foundation to develop and manage nationally significant destinations along the Trail;
- increase opportunity for private sector philanthropic financial participation, as is enjoyed by more well-known National Parks;
- improve visibility for this East coast exemplar of Native American culture and history; and,
- establish a permanent, place-based anchor for Park Service participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program

Units of the National Park System are huge economic generators for their local gateway communities and the nation as a whole. In addition, extensive research indicates that water trails improve local economies by bringing increased tourism and new businesses to the areas in which they are located. Designation of the Trail as provided by S. 1644 would affirm these benefits, and provide incentives for additional investment by "Trail towns" and their business communities.

There is strong bi-partisan support for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail from across the region. I urge your favorable consideration of S. 1644.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hughes 313 N. Linden Avenue Annapolis, MD 21401

# Statement of Senator Tim Kaine on H.Con. Res.33 Recognizing the George C. Marshall Foundation Museum and Library as the National George C. Marshall Museum Legislative Hearing of the National Parks Subcommittee Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources August 15, 2018

Chair and Ranking Member, distinguished members of the committee, thank you for considering this bipartisan resolution to recognize the George C. Marshall Foundation's museum and library as the National George C. Marshall Museum. I applaud Congressman Bob Goodlatte and the entire bipartisan Virginia congressional delegation for advancing this through the House of Representatives, and I am pleased to have sponsored the Senate version (S. Con. Res. 9) with my colleague Senator Mark Warner.

George C. Marshall was born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania to a Virginia family. He graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1901 as senior first captain of the Corps of Cadets and served in a variety of posts in the Philippines, the United States, France, and China, distinguishing himself as a military leader. In 1939, he was named Army Chief of Staff by President Roosevelt and was responsible for building, supplying, and deploying over eight million soldiers. In 1947, President Truman appointed him Secretary of State, during which time he instituted what history would record as the "Marshall Plan," the post-war European economic recovery strategy. Marshall received the Nobel Peace Prize for his post-war work, the only career U.S. Army officer ever to receive this honor. He was also awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1946.

The George C. Marshall Foundation was established in 1953 and officially opened in 1964. The Foundation's museum is located in Lexington, Virginia, and is dedicated to educating the public about the important contributions of George C. Marshall through its museum and research library, which includes five extensive exhibits and houses his Nobel Peace Prize.

I am proud to support this resolution to recognize George C. Marshall and give appropriate national recognition to the museum honoring his legacy.

Written Testimony of Representative Steve Knight (CA-25)

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

August 15, 2018

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in regards to H.R. 2156, the Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Act. This bipartisan bill passed the House of Representatives unanimously on July 11, 2017, and mirrors S.1926 introduced by Senator Harris.

The collapse of the Saint Francis Dam on March 12, 1928 remains the second largest disaster in California's history and is considered to be one of the worst American civil engineering disasters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nearly twelve billion gallons of water were released due to the dam's failure and left disaster in its wake from the San Franciquito Canyon all the way to the Pacific Ocean 54 miles away. More than 431 lives were lost due to the resulting flood, and just recently 13 more of the disaster's casualties were identified by the area's local historical society.

Our nation's civil engineers learned from this tragedy, however, and brought important enhancements to their field and made critical improvements to dam safety. The failure of the St. Francis Dam subsequently changed methods to build new dams and set new safety standards across the nation, including for the construction of the Hoover Dam.

H.R. 2156 seeks to memorialize those that perished as a result of the St. Francis Dam Disaster and would create a 440-acre national monument managed by the U.S. Forest Service at the original dam site to honor those named and still unnamed that lost their lives in this tragedy. It is

important not just for the present-day area of Santa Clarita, California, but also for our nation together to remember this tragic event of our past, and continue to learn from it.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak to this significant legislation, and for your valuable efforts in moving it forward.

Statement of Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.)
On S. 2570
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks Legislative Hearing
August 15, 2018

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, Chairman Daines and Ranking Member King, thank you for including our legislation in this hearing. This bill, S. 2570, would address an urgent issue facing the Essex National Heritage Area, which encompasses 26 national historic landmarks, 9,968 sites on the National Register of Historic Places, 73 National Register Historic Districts, two national parks, and one national wildlife refuge. This bill would repeal the sunset for the Heritage Area's funding authorization and total funding cap.

Right now, the Essex National Heritage Area is facing a 2021 authorization sunset and a total funding cap of \$17 million, which it is set to reach in 2020. The Essex National Heritage Area provides an opportunity for Massachusetts residents and visitors from around the country to experience both the natural beauty and the rich history of the region. It is a valuable addition to the regional economy, with one analysis finding that it generates \$153.8 million in economic impact, supports 1,832 jobs, and produces \$14.3 million in tax revenue every year.

According to a National Park Service recommendation letter, the Essex National Heritage Commission "successfully engages citizens who work in heritage and conservation agencies all across the region" and has leveraged additional financial resources to more than double the requirement for annual matching contributions from 1998 to 2013. Without continuing federal support, many of the local partners that work with the Essex National Heritage Commission would struggle to continue to operate and our region would lose the important programs that bring our history to life. The sunset is not a necessary component of the National Heritage Area designation, and there are three areas that do not have and have never had sunset dates.

Removing this looming expiration date will allow the Essex National Heritage Area to continue to serve our communities and visitors and to generate economic opportunity for the New England region for many more years to come. If the Heritage Area authorization sunsets, it will lose National Park Service funding and no longer be able to attract matching non-federal funds—decimating its ability to put on educational events, maintain trails and historic locations, and promote regional tourism in sites like the Salem Maritime National Historic Site and the Essex Coastal Scenic Byway.

We look forward to working with the Committee on a bipartisan basis on this legislation. We hope that it will be quickly and favorably reported so that the Essex National Heritage Area can continue to provide educational and economic value to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and surrounding region.

### Mill Springs (S.3176) and Camp Nelson (S.3287)

Statement for the Record of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; Subcommittee on National Parks August 15, 2018

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member King, Fellow Senators:

Responsible preservation of our national treasures is of paramount importance for protecting the United States' natural beauty, cultural heritage, and historical importance. The National Park System plays an integral role in this endeavor by enshrining historically noteworthy places of our past and preserving land that is both culturally and recreationally significant so that they may be enjoyed for generations to come. I'd like to thank you for holding this hearing today and for allowing me to express my support for the incorporation of two historically and culturally significant sites in Kentucky into the National Park System as National Monuments: Mill Springs Battlefield and Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park.

Kentucky's rich history merits continued study and recognition, and the Commonwealth's experiences during the U.S. Civil War are no exception. As a border state, there was strong support for both sides of the conflict, and in May 1861, the Commonwealth adopted an official position of neutrality. However, as the war intensified, Kentucky became an attractive target for both the Union and Confederate Armies, ultimately causing the Commonwealth's neutral position to be short-lived.

In January 1862, Confederate troops marched through the Cumberland Gap to the small community of Mill Springs in Wayne County. Fighting in the mud and rain, the Union Army successfully pushed the Confederate Army into a retreat and notched its first significant victory in the West. The Union victory at the Battle of Mill Springs was a pivotal point in the Civil War. It led to the total collapse of the Confederate Army's eastern line of defense designed to force Kentucky's allegiance to the South, and it opened up crucial transportation routes for helping the Union Army deliver needed supplies and expand its territories.

I have worked with my fellow Kentuckian, Congressman Hal Rogers, as well as local stakeholders to introduce legislation to enshrine this battlefield among our nation's most treasured lands to promote public education, tourism, and remembrance. In 1993, the battlefield was designated a U.S. National Historic Landmark District in recognition of its historical importance to both the Commonwealth and the nation. Through the remarkable work of the Mill Springs Battlefield Association, Inc., hundreds of acres of land have been acquired and preserved. The association also made significant investments to establish a 10,000 square-foot museum and visitors' center.

While the association has done incredible work for years to protect the Mill Springs Battlefield, the site's incorporation in to the National Park System as a National Monument will help highlight the battlefield's historical significance to our country and to ensure its long-term preservation into the future. My legislation, S. 3176, is part of our latest efforts to protect the battlefield's legacy and see it established as a National Monument within the National Park System. I would especially like to commend my friend, Congressman Rogers, who led this effort in the House and shepherded companion legislation to passage.

Another significant Civil War site in Kentucky in need of federal recognition and protection is Camp Nelson, which was established in Jessamine County by the Union Army in 1863. Historians have written that the camp quickly became one of the most important recruiting stations and training facilities for African American soldiers fighting for the Union throughout Kentucky. During the war, the camp housed as many

as 8,000 Union troops and over 3,000 African-American refugees. And, by the end of 1865, more than 10,000 African-American soldiers passed through Camp Nelson.

Despite constant danger along the way, many men and women considered Camp Nelson their best path to emancipation. Later, the site played a pivotal role in shifting the Army's policy for handling refugees and ultimately in assisting Congress in passing legislation to emancipate the wives and children of African-American soldiers, who fled to the camp seeking asylum. To this day, Camp Nelson also remains a military cemetery, continuing to serve our nation as a hallowed resting place for the brave fallen.

Camp Nelson possesses lasting historical significance for its role during the Civil War, the subsequent Reconstruction, and in the history of civil rights in our nation. Now, it's time for Congress to recognize that impact with my bill, S. 3287, designating Camp Nelson as a National Monument and entrusting it to the National Park System.

My friend from the Bluegrass, Congressman Andy Barr, continues to be a strong voice for Camp Nelson, and I am proud to be his partner as we try to protect this significant location in our Commonwealth for generations to come.

I would also like to note that Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke has expressed interest in both of these sites. He recently invited public input from the local communities about the historical significance of Mill Springs Battlefield and Camp Nelson. I have heard from numerous Kentuckians who strongly support the inclusion of these Civil War sites into the National Park System because of their importance for both our Commonwealth and our nation. I look forward to the results of the public input the Department of Interior is seeking, and I was pleased to hear that the Trump administration supports both of my bills. I will continue engaging with this subcommittee, our colleagues in Congress, and the administration on the importance of safeguarding these treasured sites.

As this subcommittee continues its oversight work of the management and development of our National Parks, I urge you to help protect Mill Springs Battlefield and Camp Nelson for further education, interpretation, and appreciation as National Monuments.

Thank you once again.



#### NPCA Positions for August 15<sup>th</sup> Senate Energy and Natural Resources National Parks Subcommittee Hearing

August 14, 2018

Dear Senator,

Since 1919, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System. On behalf of our more than 1.3 million members and supporters nationwide, please consider our positions on the following bills when they are considered at the Energy and Natural Resources National Parks Subcommittee hearing on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

S. 509 / H.R. 1488: Indiana Dunes National Park Designation Act — NPCA is concerned that this bill does not include language that seeks to protect the unique natural resources found at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Currently, the Lakeshore is managed in a similar way to other Lakeshores and National Recreation Areas — the enabling legislation allows for uses and activities that may not be compatible with the purpose and significance of a National Park, such as trapping. Additionally, Indiana Dunes is in a highly developed and industrial setting and was established with a fragmented boundary—many subsequent additions to the park are non-contiguous parcels. NPCA encourages the committee to 1) consider a boundary study and 2) change the land acquisition policy before making this designation change. A boundary study could ease management challenges and enhance the visitor experience to the area.

S. 1644: Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Parity Act – The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, as designated by Congress in 2006, is America's first water-based National Historic Trail. The trail commemorates Smith's 17th-century explorations in the Chesapeake Bay region and his encounters with Native American communities. NPCA supports "unit status" for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, identified as a nationally significant resource. Units of the National Park System are huge economic generators for their local gateway communities. Although it is official National Park Service policy to manage and administer national park units and national parks that do not have "unit status" equally, in reality, important differences exist. "Unit status" would benefit visitors to the trail with enhanced interpretation and experiences as demonstrated by the dramatic increase in visitation when the Zimmerman Center in Pennsylvania became affiliated with the National Park Service as the first visitor contact station for

S. 1993: Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act — "From the Santa Susana Mountains to the heart of the city at El Pueblo de Los Angeles, the Rim of the Valley is an area rich in historic and cultural sites and critical wildlife corridors, waterways and landscapes worthy of national recognition and protection by the National Park

Service." With more than 17 million people, the Los Angeles Metropolitan area is the second most populous region of the country; yet has less open space per capita than all other large cities on the west coast. NPCA supports the Rim of the Valley proposal that represents an opportunity to better protect and manage some of the region's last wild lands, open spaces—including habitat for threatened species ranging from the mountain lion to the red-legged frog—and historic sites that will allow the National Park Service to tell the story of Los Angeles's rich and nationally-significant history. The expanded presence of the National Park Service will also facilitate new partnerships with schools, local governments and community-based organizations to improve outreach and park service-led interpretive programs, better connect youth and families to the outdoors, and build a new generation of national park enthusiasts. Additionally, the adjustment respects local land use authorities, forbids the use of eminent domain, and has no impact on rights of private property owners.

S. 2015: National Scenic Trails Parity Act — NPCA supports this legislation because it addresses inequities in the management of the six National Scenic Trails (NSTs) administered by the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS has assigned "unit status" to the Appalachian, Potomac Heritage and Natchez Trace NSTs, while withholding "unit status" from the North Country, Ice Age and New England NSTs. By assigning "unit status" to the three other trails, it creates a level playing field in access to NPS funding, programming and promotional opportunities as part of the National Park System, which these three trails are currently excluded from. "Unit status" would not create jurisdictional and management conflicts where they traverse other Federal lands, such as National Forests, since this is precluded in Section 7(a) of the National Trails System Act.

S. 2604: Oil Region National Heritage Area Reauthorization Act – Oil Region commemorates the legacy of the world's first commercially successful commercial oil well developed in northwestern Pennsylvania. The oil region encompasses Venango County, Oil Creek Township, the borough of Hydetown, and the City of Titusville, Pennsylvania. Oil Region NHA supports educational, recreational and entrepreneurial opportunities for residents and visitors throughout the "Valley that changed the world," NPCA supports this legislation to reauthorize the National Heritage Area.

<u>S. 2870:</u> Amache Study Act – NPCA supports this legislation to take the initial steps needed to preserve and protect Amache internment camp site in Granada, Colorado. This bill will provide the formal process and social science to elevate, preserve and restore Amache to its due place in American history.

NPCA firmly believes the importance and central role of the National Park Service in telling our collective history. That collective history cannot be fully told until we learn and pay respect to those who continue to suffer because of their unjust incarceration at Amache. We are appreciative that the study will consider the preservation of and the sensitivities associated with the loss of life, suffering, and the stripping of unalienable rights of more than seven thousand United States citizens. Amache, and former internment camp sites throughout the west, have been physically eroded by time but still stand today as a mirror to our country that reflects on issues of racism and fear that are as relevant today as they were nearly 75 years ago. The lack of adequate protection and funding of the Amache site to date serves as a shameful mark on our history, underscoring the lessons we as a nation, have not yet learned. Our nation owes all that suffered within the confines of Amache the due recognition of their struggle. Studying the Amache site allows for the opportunity to teach current and future generations of the mistakes that allowed for Executive Order 9066 to suspend the foundational American law that all men are created equal, and that allowed for systemic racism and fear to overrule our core beliefs and Constitution.

S. 2889 / H.R. 4895: Medgar Evers Home National Monument Act — Medgar Evers was a powerful voice and presence for the civil rights movement. A veteran of United States armed forces, Evers joined the fight for equality upon returning to civilian life and served as the first NAACP field secretary for Mississippi. Although his voice was silenced by an assassin's bullet in 1963, his legacy survived his death at the age of 37. NPCA supports the establishment of national park site commemorating his life and work. However, NPCA opposes language in the bill regarding "buffer zones," since it seeks to override existing National Park Service authorities' to protect park resources and values. The Park Service must consider how activities on adjacent lands affect park resources and the visitor experience and be able to engage the community in finding reasonable solutions to potentially difficult management challenges.

S. 2831 / H.R. 5751: Golden Spike 150th Anniversary Act — NPCA strongly supports expanding the National Park System to more fully tell the story of America's history, culture and our diverse experiences as a nation. The Golden Spike site certainly offers a unique narrative on the transcontinental railroad boom in the 19th Century—a significant turning point in westward expansion, the makeup of the American workforce and the reach of national media. NPCA encourages Congress to include information regarding the labor of diverse immigrants along the railroad in the bill itself and honor the roles of workers that made the track and Park Service site possible. For example, between 1865 and 1869, approximately 12,000 Chinese laborers were hired to work on the completion of the railroad accounting for 85 percent of the Central Pacific Railroad workforce.

Recognizing the stories that the Golden Spike site and bill honor, NPCA has concerns with portions of the bills. The intention of the Transcontinental Railroad Network (TRN) seems to mirror those of other "networks" in the National Park System supported by NPCA. However, the scale and scope of the TRN is significant (2,000-mile railroad corridor), and while criteria are offered in Sec. 4, these are numerous and will require an unknown but significant amount of National Park Service (NPS) outreach. To that end, this expansion, absence additional funding (see Sec. 7) or resources, may significantly over-tax existing NPS staff. Without known additional resources or philanthropic engagement, the development of robust partnerships to support the TRN rests on adjacent landowners. Lacking adequate NPS capacity to work with such a potentially large number of landowners, we are concerned these partnerships may not result in a balanced or sustainable network to honor the Transcontinental Railroad story. For example, NPCA certainly supports the removal (and necessary treatment) of invasive species; however, without NPS support and guidance along an NPS managed site or network, such activities could be delayed (30-days is very brief) or poorly implemented without adequate mitigation planning, resources or compliance staff engagement.

Additionally, NPCA is concerned with Section 5 relating to Historical Crossings. Again, a 30-day review period is very brief and insufficient to complete a thorough review of any proposed activities. Also, there are no parameters for the substance of possible proposed activities and no requirement of NEPA. It is important that the Park Service be allowed to review the environmental impacts of possible, unspecified activities.

S. 3176 / H.R. 5979: Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument Act – The Battle of Mill Springs was the first decisive Federal victory of the Civil War and the beginning of a series of Confederate setbacks in the Western Theater. Mill Springs Battlefield, the Brown-Lanier House and the West-Metcalf house, are intact examples of a civil war battlefield and related properties that were occupied at the time of the Battle. The preserved encampment and earth works at Beech Grove provide an insight into the Confederate Army's winter field camp in the winter of 1861-62.

In 1991, the National Park Service put Mill Springs on the Most Endangered Battlefield List. Since 1991 the Mill Springs Battlefield Association has purchased and maintained nearly 500 acres of battlefield land. In 1993 the Mill Springs Battlefield was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and in 1994 Mill Springs Battlefield was designated a National Historic Landmark.

While NPCA **supports** the bill, we oppose language regarding "buffer zones" since it seeks to override existing National Park Service authorities' to protect park resources and values. The Park Service must consider how activities on adjacent lands affect park resources and the visitor experience and be able to engage the community in finding reasonable solutions to potentially difficult management challenges.

S. 3287 / H.R. 5655: Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act – NPCA supports this legislation to protect the Camp Nelson area as a National Monument. Roughly 180,000 African American men fought for the Union during the American Civil War. Beginning in 1864, Camp Nelson served as one of the largest recruitment, mustering and training depots for United States Colored Troops (USCT). Locals have supported preservation of the Camp Nelson story for decades. The designation of the site as a national monument to be managed by the National Park Service ensures that the important resources and stories associated with Camp Nelson will be protected in perpetuity for the benefit, enjoyment and inspiration of the American people and international visitors alike.

While NPCA supports the bill, we oppose language regarding "buffer zones" since it seeks to override existing National Park Service authorities' to protect park resources and values. The Park Service must consider how activities on adjacent lands affect park resources and the visitor experience and be able to engage the community in finding reasonable solutions to potentially difficult management challenges.

Thank you for considering our views and please contact Natalie Levine at (202) 454-3326 or <a href="mailto:nlevine@npca.org">nlevine@npca.org</a> with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ani Kame'enui Director of Legislation & Policy



August 30, 2018

Chairman Lisa Murkowski Ranking Member Maria Cantwell U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 304 Dirksen Senate Building Washington, DC 20510

RE: Docket No. CP17-80-00

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I write to voice the National Parks Conservation Association's support for S. 1644, a bill to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail a formal "unit" of the National Park System.

A unique part of the National Trail System, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail was designated in 2006 as the nation's first water-based national historic trail, affirmed by Congress as historically significant. One of the longest national trails in the county, the Trail covers over 3,000 miles and commemorates Captain John Smith's early 17-century explorations of the Chesapeake region and the Native American communities he encountered. The Trail receives broad support from its associated sites and neighboring communities as well as growing visitation through its first visitor contact station.

In his statement to the Committee Assistant Director Smith maintains that unit status in the National Park System is a mere technicality, with no impacts on trail funding or management. In actuality unit status does offer several benefits that impact the trail's protection, management, funding and greatly influence the visitor experience.

Unit status would provide greater visibility and recognition of the Trail as well as a stronger foundation for public and private financial support. Currently, national historic trails are not depicted in the National Park Service's popular "Map and Guide" publication and are generally not highlighted by destination marketing organizations. Differences can also be found in the NPS Greenbook of budgets and full-time equivalent employees, with non-units receiving significantly less support in each category. As with the more well-known National Parks, unit status would offer more private funding opportunities usually limited to higher profile units of the System. Designated units of the National Park System are huge economic generators for their local gateway communities and the country's recreation and tourism

industries. Research indicates that water trails improve local economies by bringing increased tourism and new business to the areas in which they are located.

Assistant Director Smith offers arguments for opposition to S. 1644 while supporting unit status for every scenic trail currently in the National Park System. His testimony suggests that protection of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail is somehow " not feasible", owing to its status as "an imprecise, continuous route". However, this argument runs contrary to the comprehensive management plan and mapping completed by NPS as well as the numerous points of interest, public water access sites, local water trails, and locations of the NOAA interpretive buoys marking the trail's route.

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT benefits greatly from public-private partnerships with philanthropic and programmatic support from organizations like the Chesapeake Conservancy, Susquehanna Heritage, and the Sultana Education Foundation. The greater visibility and resources afforded by unit status could only serve to strengthen and elevate such partnerships and their investments in the Trail.

Since its inception there has been strong bipartisan support for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail across the region. Designation of the Trail as a unit of the National Park System could only bolster its conservation, economic, educational and recreational benefits to the surrounding communities.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of S. 1644.

Sincerely,

Pamela Goddard

Parale E. Goldand

Senior Program Director, Mid-Atlantic Region



<sup>2</sup> 217 Elm Street / Oil City, PA 16301-1412 / 814.677.3152 / FAX 814.677.5206 / 800.483.6264 / www.oilregion.org

### Testimony Regarding S. 2604 Oil Region National Heritage Area Reauthorization Act

Testimony by John R. Phillips, II; jphillips@oilregion.org
President and Chief Executive Officer, Oil Region Alliance (ORA);
Administrator of the Oil Region National Heritage Area (ORNHA).

Testimony Submitted Electronically on August 24, 2018 to the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, Public Lands, Forests & Mining; Within the U. S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; fortherecord@energy.senate.gov

The Oil Region National Heritage Area (ORNHA) was designated as an official National Heritage Area as part of Public Law 108-447 enacted by Congress in 2004. Federal funding began in Federal Fiscal Year 2015. The 708-square mile geographical territory of Venango County and parts of eastern Crawford County (specifically the City of Titusville, Oil Creek Township, and Borough of Hydetown) in rural northwestern Pennsylvania were designated in order to preserve, enhance, and promote the area's distinctive legacy as birthplace of the world's petroleum industry, starting with Edwin Drake and his 1859 shallow drilled well along Oil Creek in Venango County.

That legislation indicated that the Oil Heritage Region, Inc. or its descendant nonprofit corporation would be responsible to administer and operate ORNHA in collaboration with the National Park Service, as well as numerous state, regional, and local partners throughout the public and private sectors. In 2005, Oil Heritage Region, Inc. and three other long-standing nonprofit organizations merged to comprise the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism (ORA). It has been my pleasure to serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of ORA since 2011.

The initial legislation indicated that prior to considering the extension of federal funding authorization for the Oil Region National Heritage Area, the Department of the Interior/National Park Service would conduct an independent evaluation to determine whether ORA/ORNHA has been addressing the legislated purposes as outlined in the ORNHA Management Action Plan which was approved by the Governor of Pennsylvania and the Department of the Interior in 2008. NPS contracted with the independent consulting firm of Westat, Inc. based in Rockville, Maryland in 2015 to conduct such an evaluation. Their Evaluation Findings report was published in July, 2016; full report is available from NPS or ORA. Three key evaluation questions were examined and answered, as condensed below.

### Key Findings – Evaluation Questions and Findings (excerpt Report pages 5 – (Report Published by Westat in 2016)

#1: Based on its authorizing legislation and general management plan, has the heritage area achieved its proposed accomplishments?

"ORA has successfully fulfilled the legislative requirements in meeting Heritage Development Activity goals. From 2005 to 2015, ORA has invested \$6,879,852 in Heritage Development activities, or 35.3 percent of their investments. .....From 2009 to 2013, annual visitation ranged from 69,436 in 2010 to 239,122 in 2012. ORA also produces educational materials, documentaries, and events. .... Reports to NPS and data from respondent interviewees suggested that ORA met its goals of reusing and redeveloping ORNHA sites and collections; increasing protection of natural resources surrounding preserved sites; increasing preservation of historic petroleum/natural gas artifacts available for future generations; and increasing integration of subject matter expertise into ORNHA's and partners' programming."

"ORA has successfully fulfilled the legislative requirements in meeting Economic Development Activity goals. From 2005 to 2015, ORA has invested \$6,724,393 in Economic Development activities, or 34.5 percent of investments.....{Examples} included the recent "Get on the Trail Entrepreneurial Business Plan Contest," which awards local businesses funds to carry out innovative ideas along the portion of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail within the NHA. Other activities include developing industrial parks such as the Sandycreek Industrial Park that retained 115 local jobs and created 30 new ones. Additionally, ORA shares its office and works closely with the Oil City Main Street Program. ....ORA had over 100 volunteers at key events in 2013 and 2014."

"ORA has successfully fulfilled the legislative requirements in meeting the legislative requirements in meeting Tourism Destination Marketing Activity goals. From 2005 to 2015, ORA has invested \$1,993,259 in Tourism Destination Marketing Activities, or 10.2 percent of investments. Tourism destination marketing activities included producing a series of fishing reports together with the Pennsylvania Great Lakes Region, biking maps, and hiking-biking-water trails maps of the region. The Visitor Guide and brochures are major activities for the ORA, and the Tourist Promotion Advisory Council distributes the guides widely throughout the ORNHA and beyond. ... According to intercept interviews,...74 percent were familiar with the ORA logo and 83 percent were familiar with the history of the region. .... Additionally, there was overwhelming support to preserve the regional heritage of the ORNHA."

#2: What have been the impacts of investments made by Federal, State, Tribal and local government and private entities?

"ORNHA has met its match requirements, with the NPS contribution being less than 50 percent of total expenditures for all years. ORA financial statements indicate that between 2005 and 2015, \$9.37 million in NPS and matching financial resources were directed to related activities within the ORNHA. This demonstrates a record of finding alternative sources of revenue beyond what is required by the Congressional mandate (NPS Expended funds were \$2.6 million and match was \$6.5 million).

#3: How do the heritage area's management structure, partnership relationships, and current funding contribute to its sustainability?

"It terms of sustainability, the evaluation found that ORA has demonstrated a capacity for overseeing operations as an indicator of sustainability not only through strong leadership, but also through its modes of monitoring visitors and long history with key partners. ... The ORA proactively conducted a sustainability plan that lays out a number of concrete steps to detail how ORA should support partners in the future. Highlights of the sustainability plan (completed in December 2015) suggest that ORA's future paths for sustainability include educational travel and VolunTourism, outdoor recreational travel and tourism, entrepreneurial initiatives, and brownfield and community redevelopment initiative. Almost unanimously, stakeholders suggested that heritage development activities would be sharply diminished if NPS funding disappeared."

\*\* Excerpts from "Oil Region National Heritage Area Evaluation Findings; July 2016; prepared for United States National Park Service; prepared by Westat in Rockville, Maryland; authored by Emanuel Robinson, Ph.D., Andrew Greer, Ph.D., and Kathryn Kulbicki, M.S., M.S.A.

\*

### Focus on S. 2604

Turning to Senate 2604, the Oil Region National Heritage Area Reauthorization Act as introduced in the U. S. Senate in March, 2018, please be aware that the entire Board of Directors and staff for the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism (ORA) are in favor of the bill as introduced. More significantly, the 31 municipalities, more than 69,000 residents, extensive private businesses and organizations, the property owners, and former residents of the Oil Region National Heritage Area also strongly support the reauthorization of ORNHA.

S. 2604 has three elements; it would extend the funding authorization through September 30, 2026. ORA first received federal ORNHA funding in April, 2005. Our initial legislation reads in Section 608as follows regarding the stage at which federal funding should be reviewed: "The Secretary may not make any grant or provide any assistance under this title after the expiration of the 15-year period beginning on the date that funds are first made available for this title." Therefore, without action on the reauthorization bill, federal funding to ORNHA would cease during April, 2020.

Shortly after federal designation, the Oil Heritage Region, Inc. merged into the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism. It is therefore appropriate to substitute in law the name for this area's management entity. The National Park Service does not object to this name update for the management entity.

The third element in S. 2604 would increase the cumulative cap on federal funding through NPS to the ORNHA. ORA estimates that by September 30, 2018, a total of \$3,471,884 will have been drawn down from the National Park Service in the Heritage Partnership Program category within the U. S. Department of Interior system. The initial designation legislation indicated a \$10 million cumulative cap. S. 2604 would increase the cumulative cap to become \$20 million, in anticipation of the chronological extension of federal funding authorization through September 30, 2026.

The initial legislation (Public Law 108-447, Division J, Title VI, 118 Stat.2809) also requires cash matching funds of at least \$1 non-federal for each NPS \$1. For the period from April 2005 through September 30, 2018, ORA estimates that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (especially the Pa. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pa. Historical and Museum Commission) will have provided \$3,480,920 as match for heritage development projects. In addition during that time period, local public and private sources (including municipalities, counties, trusts/foundations, memberships, book sales, event proceeds, and other grants/donations for heritage development projects) have provided \$5,258,092 in revenues which are expended. Therefore, the total revenues for those multiple years is estimated to be \$12.2 million. This is a ratio of \$1.00 federal/\$2.52 from all other sources.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask that the Senators and their fellow legislators in the U.S. House of Representatives vote in favor of S. 2604 and its companion bill, HR 6507 which was introduced in the House in July 2018. Both bills would extend federal funding authorization through September 30, 2026 and update the corporate name of the managing entity. The House bill does not impact the cumulative federal funding cap.

The Board and staff of the Oil Region Alliance will gladly provide any additional information, photographs, statements, reports, or materials requested by the legislators related to S. 2604 or other matters regarding the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

John R. Phillips II

President and Chief Executive Officer

jphillips@oilregion.org

(814) 677-3152, Extension 108

Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism

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Oil City, PA 16301

www.oilregion.org

(814) 677-5206 Fax

August 21, 2018

Chairman Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510



1706 Long Level Road Wrightsville, PA 17368 7 1 7 . 2 5 2 . 0 2 2 9

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I write to voice support for S. 1644, a bill to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as a formal "unit" of the National Park System. As a former member of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Federal Advisory Council, I believe that formal recognition of the Trail as a unit of the National Park System will yield important benefits for protection, management and visitor enjoyment of this unique national resource, including:

- 1. A stronger foundation to develop and manage nationally significant destinations along the Trail.
- 2. Greater opportunity for philanthropic support, such as with the more well-known National Parks.
- 3. Greater visibility for this East Coast showcase of Native American culture and history.
- 4. A permanent, place-based anchor for NPS participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Covering over 3,600 miles along the Chesapeake Bay and its major tributaries, including the entire Susquehanna River through Pennsylvania, the Trail commemorates Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake in the early 1600's, especially his important interactions with the Bay's Native American communities. The Trail is a nationally significant historic resource which attracts millions of annual visitors to state and federal parks and other destinations along its route. It is one of the longest national trails in the country and is completely water-based, as the Congress recognized when affirming its historic significance in 2006.

Units of the National Park System are huge economic generators for their local gateway communities and the nation as a whole. In addition, extensive research indicates that water trails improve local economies by bringing increased tourism and new business to the areas they traverse. Designation of the Trail as provided by S. 1644 will affirm these benefits and provide incentives for additional investment by "Trail Towns" and their business communities.

There is strong bi-partisan support for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail from across the region. Without doubt its designation as a unit will provide measureable conservation, economic, educational, and recreational benefits to the communities and states touched by the Trail, as well as affirming the its immense national significance. Thank you for your favorable consideration of S. 1644.

Sincerely,

Mark Platts President



8403 Colesville Road, Suite 805 | Silver Spring, MD 20910 | 301.608.1188

potomac.org

August 28, 2018

Chairman Lisa Murkowski Ranking Member Maria Cantwell U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 304 Dirksen Senate Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the Board, staff, and 23,000 river friends of Potomac Conservancy, I write to voice support for S. 1644, a bill to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail a formal "unit" of the National Park System. As a former member of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Federal Advisory Council, I believe the designation of the Trail as a unit of the National Park System will yield important benefits for the protection, management, and visitor enjoyment of the Trail.

Potomac Conservancy's mission is to safeguard the lands and waters of the Potomac River and its tributaries and connect people to this national treasure. We connect people to the river by hosting recreational and volunteer events along the Potomac. Expanding these opportunities helps raise awareness and inspire residents to make a difference for the river. Every year, we bring hundreds of paddlers – ranging from novice to advanced – out on the river to get their feet wet, connect with their community, and learn more about this critical resource. A formal designation for the Trail would preserve and support opportunities like these.

Covering over 3,600 miles to commemorate Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake in the early 1600's, the Trail is a nationally significant historic resource, which attracts millions of annual visitors to state and federal parks and other destinations along the Trail. It is one of the longest national trails in the country, and is completely water-based, as the Congress recognized when affirming its historic significance in 2006.

There is strong bi-partisan support for the Trail from across the region. Its designation as a unit would provide measureable conservation, economic, educational and recreational benefits to the communities and states touched by the Trail as well as affirming the its immense national significance. Thank you for your favorable consideration of S. 1644.

Sincerely,

Hedrick Belin President

### SUBMITTED TESTIMONY For the Record

August R. Carlino, President & Chief Executive Officer Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation and the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area

Hearing of the Subcommittee on National Parks Committee on Energy and Natural Resources United States Senate

on

S. 2441,

To amend the Steel Industry American Heritage Area Act of 1996 to repeal the funding limitation.

#### August 15, 2018

Mr. Chairman and other distinguished members of the Subcommittee, my name is August R. Carlino, and I am President and Chief Executive Officer of the Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation, a non-profit heritage tourism, and economic development organization based in Homestead, Pennsylvania. Rivers of Steel (formerly, the Steel Industry Heritage Corporation) is the management entity for the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, one of 49 National Heritage Areas designated by Congress.

Thank you for considering Senator Robert Casey's legislation, S. 2441, to amend the Steel Industry American Heritage Area Act for 1996 to repeal the funding limitation.

In 1996, Congress passed the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act (Public Law 104-333), which included language establishing the Steel Industry American Heritage Area, now known as the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area. In the same year, the Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania designated Rivers of Steel as one of its state heritage areas. Both heritage area designations share the same boundaries, mission, and vision. Rivers of Steel works to conserve and promote the industrial and cultural heritage of southwestern Pennsylvania (the counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland) while developing partnerships with the private- and public-sectors to enhance economic development opportunities through tourism and community revitalization.

The matter surrounding S. 2441 relates to Rivers of Steel's ability to meet its legislative mandate under its original authorization, and its subsequent reauthorizations, most recently in 2014. At that time, Rivers of Steel, along with several other NHAs had their authorizations extended from 2015 until 2021 through language contained in the Defense Reauthorization Act<sup>1</sup>. However, the funding caps for the NHAs were not adjusted with that reauthorization out of concern that any including funding cap increase included in the bill would trigger a scoring by the Congressional Budget Office, thereby delaying or possibly threatening the bill's consideration. The lack of a funding cap increase created a future problem for Rivers of Steel. If annual funding allocations continued at the historic levels, Rivers of Steel would push the cap limitations before reaching the end of its reauthorization in 2021. The decision in Congress, nonetheless, was to address the funding caps when the funding neared the cap.

Today's testimony by P. Daniel Smith, Deputy Director of the National Park Service, Rivers of Steel's key federal funding partner, is disappointing to read. I believe the recommendation to not remove the cap contradicts NPS's findings and recommendations contained in several other recent reports, letters to Congress, and published reports on Rivers of Steel specifically, and NHAs in general. These reports include a comprehensive program evaluation of Rivers of Steel conducted in 2013 by Westat for the National Park Service and a report in 2006 by the National Park Service Advisory Board.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> P.L. 113-291, Div. B, Title XXX, Sec. 3052(a)(1)(B)(ii), Dec. 19, 2014.

Similarly, opposition groups to National Heritage Areas have long had the ear of some policymakers that NHAs violate private property rights, or constitute a drain on the National Park System by diverting funding from much-needed park projects thereby contributing to a maintenance backlog in the NPS. Mr. Chairman, these arguments ring hollow, and nothing can be further from the truth.

In 2006, the National Park Service Advisory Board published a report, *Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas*, in which Douglas P. Wheeler, Chairman, stated:

National Heritage Areas represent a significant advance in conservation and historic preservation: large-scale, community-centered initiatives collaborating across political jurisdictions to protect nationally-important landscapes and living cultures. Managed locally, National Heritage Areas play a vital role in preserving the physical character, memories, and stories of our country, reminding us of our national origins and destiny. This is a citizens' movement of high purpose and great benefit to the nation. We must act to ensure that it is vigorously encouraged by providing readily understood standards for the establishment of new National Heritage Areas and by better defining a mutually advantageous partnership with the National Park Service.<sup>2</sup>

The report included a series of recommendations to Congress and to the National Park Service, including creating a permanent home within the NPS System for National Heritage Areas, and making a long-term (financial) commitment to National Heritage Areas.<sup>3</sup>

National Heritage Areas are recognized as innovative and creative partnerships that extend the reach of the National Park Service by conserving the nationally-significant heritage of the United States. NHAs have been studied by other governments as models for conservation,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Douglas P. Wheeler, forward to *Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas*, National Park Service Advisory Board, National Park Service (2006), pg.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas, National Park Service Advisory Board, National Park Service (2006), pg. 17-18.

preservation, and economic development. This new model of conservation was the exact reason the Reagan Administration created the very first National Heritage Area in the 1980s. Then the National Park Service recognized that the evolving history of America was approaching a point of an unsustainable future if all nationally-significant historic and cultural resources were to become owned and operated by the federal government. The concept of NHAs grew from the creation of the Illinois & Michigan Canal NHA outside of Chicago to 48 other National Heritage Areas in the United States.

The model for all the NHAs management is remarkably similar: a public-private partnership where the National Park Service is one of many partners, all of which contribute to some level of funding or support for programs, and projects. Most NHAs are managed by a nonprofit organization with boards of directors consisting of various community leaders from different sectors of the local region. NHAs vary in size and scope; all created with a permanent designation by Congress based on an initial management plan that charts the goals for first 10 years of operations. NHAs which have reached the end of that first 10 years, like Rivers of Steel, have been reauthorized by the Congress.

As Congress created new NHAs, it also reauthorized older NHAs as they reached their sunset dates. NHAs were succeeding it their goals and objectives and were becoming economical, efficient ways to conserve America's heritage and history while extending the ability of the National Park Service to meet its mission. As NHAs matured and reached the points of possible reauthorization, however, there was nothing in place that documented their effectiveness, or that provided a critical analysis of their work.

In 2007 I testified before this Subcommittee on a bill, S. 817, that would extend the authorization of several NHAs, including Rivers of Steel. In that testimony, I pointed out the

history of Congress in reauthorizing National Heritage Areas with nine NHAs receiving or considered for reauthorization<sup>4</sup>.

That legislation also included language directing the National Park Service, for the first time, to conduct evaluations of National Heritage Areas as they reach their sunset dates. Evaluations of NHAs was a concept advocated for by the National Heritage Areas as a way for Congress to make informed decisions about NHAs, their work, and their continued need. As a result, P.L. 110-229 required the National Park Service to institute an evaluation process to both measure the success of each NHA and to make recommendations on their possible reauthorizations.

The National Park Service evaluated Rivers of Steel in 2012. That study, conducted by Westat, found that from 1997 to 2010 Rivers of Steel led or partnered on more than 300 heritage development projects in the National Heritage Area accounting for more than \$32.0 million in direct investment through the NHA<sup>5</sup>. In a letter to the chair and ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the National Park Service summarized the findings of the Westat evaluation and concluded that Rivers of Steel,

"...is fulfilling its legislative mandate. With appropriate authorization, a range of options exist for NPS involvement in supporting the area including: providing financial and technical assistance, coordinating training, providing operational guidance on long-term sustainability planning, partnering with National Parks for events and programming, consulting on preservation and conservation, and consulting on plans and projects."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Testimony of August R. Carlino, President & Chief Executive Officer, Rivers of Steel Heritage Corp., Before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, on S. 817, March 20, 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Mary Anne, Myers, Ph.D., Westat, *Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area Evaluation Findings*, prepared for the United States National Park Service, June 2012, Washington, DC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Letter of Michael Bean, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, to The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC., February 11, 2015.

In 2013 an economic impact study of Rivers of Steel conducted by Tripp-Umbach for the National Park Service concluded that through 2012, congressionally-designated funding to Rivers of Steel generated more than \$69.0 million in tourism and economic development activity in the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area creating more than 900 jobs in the region and generating over \$6.4 million in tax revenues for the local governments.<sup>7</sup>

Since those studies, Rivers of Steel has completed an update to its original 1996 Management Plan and is preparing to conduct an update to the economic impact study. In the years between 2012 and today, Rivers of Steel has seen substantial growth in tourism dollars spent in the region, in job creation resulting from the NHA, and in more projects underway in communities in southwestern Pennsylvania. I am confident, given these changes over the past five years that the to-be-reported economic numbers will be substantially higher from 2012's report.

As I have pointed out, inconsistencies exist with the National Park Service's policy and recommendations on Rivers of Steel. There are also inconsistencies with legislation among the 49 NHAs and their separate authorizations. Some NHA legislation, like Rivers of Steel's, have both a sunset date and a funding cap; others have no sunset date at all; and, a few have no funding cap. A few others have no match requirements for their funding. While this all creates a complexity of legislative juggling for NPS and Congress, those NHAs with funding caps confront the greatest inconstancy. As with Rivers of Steel, the requirements mandated under an authorization with as sunset date cannot be met if a cap on funding is imposed before the date of sunset thereby limiting its work. The cap creates an unfunded mandate for Rivers of Steel and undermines the sustainability of its partnerships. In NPS's published reports, as pointed out previously, the agency's findings and recommendations to Congress directly contradict the Deputy Director's testimony to the Subcommittee. For Rivers of Steel, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Economic Impact of National Heritage Areas, A Case Study Analysis of Six National Heritage Area Sites in the Northeast Region of the United States and Projections on the National Impact of All National Heritage Areas, prepared by the firm of Tripp-Umbach for the Northeast Regional Office of the National Park Service, January 2013.

funding cap limitation will block all federal NHA funding while an authorization is still enacted, thereby inhibiting Rivers of Steel's ability to carry out the mandate of its authorization. The expectation that other partner funding will continue without the federal investment of a federally created initiative is inherently naïve and demonstrates a lack of understanding of how partnerships are established and maintained.

The bill, S. 2441, introduced by Senator Bob Casey, and under consideration by the Subcommittee, would eliminate the funding cap for Rivers of Steel and allow for it to meet its congressional mandate through its authorized period up to 2021.

If the cap is not removed, Rivers of Steel will experience a 62 percent cut in federal funding in FY2019, only being able to draw down approximately \$258,000 of its regular allocation of \$664,000. After FY2019, no funding will be allocated to Rivers of Steel. The results will be devastating.

If a funding cap kicks in, Rivers of Steel programs and projects will be severely affected, if not crippled. The immediate limit of funding to Rivers of Steel in Fiscal Year 2019 and the lack of NPS funding in future years will cause projects to halt, with negative ramifications for Rivers of Steel's ability to attract non-federal funding sources. Currently, these sources, which are both other public (state and local) and philanthropic, are matched to the federal funds at a minimum of a one-to-one ratio, as required by the Public Law. By not eliminating the cap, Congress will make it more difficult, if not impossible, to raise other funds. A cap should not limit the success of Rivers of Steel and its ability to leverage support to match the NPS investment. Over its history, Rivers of Steel has raised more than five times the federal match requirement of the NPS appropriations — meeting the test of sustainability. Often, the NPS funding is first to the table and provides an incentive for other partners to more favorably consider supporting Rivers of Steel. If NPS appropriations cease because of the imposition of a funding cap, there will be little reason for other public or private funding partners to remain. Without the NPS seed

money, programs will cease, projects will end, and the cascading effect will be the loss of revenue to local economies and a loss of jobs as reported by the Tripp-Umbach study.

The result will be an erosion of the sustainability model that NPS sets as a goal for Rivers of Steel. To reiterate the record, sustainability of an NHA is a goal of the National Park Service. However, sustainability as described for NHAs and nonprofits, in general, is different from self-sufficiency, a term often misused for NHAs. Sustainability means that an organization has a balanced mix of income and revenue sources providing stable operations and program enactment. On the other hand, self-sufficiency implies that an organization is fully capable of generating all of the revenue it needs to operate without any outside funding support. The latter is not the case for Rivers of Steel or any of the 49 National Heritage Areas, as they all must work each year to secure grant funding to support operations, projects, and programming. If a funding cap is imposed, it would be logical to conclude that the future sustainability of Rivers of Steel will be jeopardized as other funding partners could withdraw, too.

Mr. Chairman, S. 2441, if enacted, will allow Rivers of Steel to continue its work in Southwestern Pennsylvania by conserving and interpreting the industrial and cultural heritage of the region. The imposition of a funding cap has punitive results and serves little purpose when Congress already can restrict, and had restricted, funding to an NHA, either by not extending its authorization or through directing language in an appropriations bill report. If anything, and as is the case with Rivers of Steel's funding cap, the language becomes another legal hurdle that creates barriers to the NHA's ability to function and meet its congressional mandate. The elimination of the funding cap will bring Rivers of Steel's legislation in line with its authorization and with that of other NHAs which operate – well within the governance of the National Park Service and congressional legislation – without any funding cap limitations. Lastly, the elimination of the funding cap language removes the imposition and need for this Subcommittee and the Congress to have to revisit this issue every two or three years. If Rivers of Steel misuses its funding or does not attain its match requirements in any year, Congress will

know, and it can use its powers to limit or terminate funding. The cap does nothing but restricts funding while an authorization permits its continuation, thus becoming an artificial barrier to sustainability and efficiency of operations: in direct contrast to the goals of Rivers of Steel, NPS, and the Congress.

I respectfully request this Subcommittee report out Senator Casey's bill, S. 2441, and remove the funding cap from Rivers of Steel.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony to the Subcommittee for its review and consideration. As always, I am available to answer any questions or provide further information.

# # #

### Marian L. Shatto

47 Laurie Lane Lititz, PA 17543-8109 mlshatto@ptd.net https://singingwithcrows.blogspot.com

26 August 2018

Chair Lisa Murkowski Ranking Member Maria Cantwell U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 304 Dirksen Senate Building Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 1644

Designation of the Captain John Smith Trail as a Unit of the National Park Service

Dear Senators Murkowski and Cantwell:

I write in favor of Senate Bill 1644, which will designate the Captain John Smith Trail as a Unit of the National Park Service. This action was recommended by the Captain John Smith Trail Advisory Council and will be of great benefit to communities all along the trail.

I grew up a few blocks from the Susquehanna River in Steelton, Pennsylvania. I am a graduate of Susquehanna University, located in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, also right along the river. My life was oriented to the flow and character of this beautiful waterway. Adding the Captain John Smith Trail as a Unit of the National Park Service will assist in the preservation and respectful development of the Susquehanna River watershed for future generations. It will also give added attention and protection to the Native American culture and heritage located along its length.

I urge you and your committee to support Bill 1644 and to send it to the full Senate with recommendation for prompt approval. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marian L. Shatto

Pray for Peace, Work for Justice, Sing for Joy

### county of ventura

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Adam Schiff U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

### Dear Congressman Schiff:

I am writing on behalf of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in support of H.R. 4086, the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act.

Thank you for sponsoring H.R. 4086 to preserve 193,000 acres of the Rim of the Valley Corridor and add it to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, stretching from the Simi Hills in Ventura County through the Santa Susana Mountains to the San Gabriel Mountains, and more than doubling the green space in the Santa Monica Mountains NRA. H.R. 4086 would provide protection for historical resources, Native American sites, endangered species and wildlife corridors, and connect greater Los Angeles and parts of Ventura County through multi-use trails. The bill calls for capital improvements, such as trails and roads; monitoring wildlife and acquiring land through donation, exchange or purchase.

The expansion of the SMMNRA boundaries in H.R. 4086 respects private property rights and existing local land use authorities. It would not require a land owner to participate in any conservation or recreation activities, and it would not put any additional restrictions on property owners. The bill does not allow for land acquisition through eminent domain.

Please continue to work with your colleagues on the House Natural Resources Committee to expedite consideration of H.R. 4086 or similar legislation that would add the Rim of the Valley Corridor to the Santa Monica Mountains NRA.

Sincerely yours,

Don Hillhal

Don Gilchrest

Washington Representative

DWG:awg



### Vietnam Veterans of America

8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100, Silver Spring, MD 20910 • Telephone (301) 585-4000 - Main Fax (301) 585-0519 -Advocacy (301) 585-3180-Communications (301) 585-2691- Finance (301) 585-5542 www.vva.org

A Not-For-Profit Veterans Service Organization Chartered by the United States Congress

August 10, 2018

Honorable Steve Daines United States Senator 320 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Daines:

On behalf of Vietnam Veterans of America, board of directors and membership, we write in support of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Extension Act introduced by Senator Steve Daines (MT) and Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL).

The National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., was constructed and dedicated to the memory of those who fought and died during the Vietnam War and to those who are still missing in action or remain unaccounted for from the war. It is a special place for private remembrance, healing, and private and public acknowledgment of the cost of that war. As such, it has become the most frequently visited sites in the nation's capital.

All too often, the teaching of the Vietnam War in secondary and post-secondary educational institutions lacks a veteran's perspective. The Vietnam War and the treatment of its veterans hold valuable lessons for future generations.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families makes a commitment to continue the conservation and the legacy that the memorial deserves which is why we fully support passage of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Centers Extension Act.

Sincerely,

John Rowan

National President/CEO



February 28, 2018

The Honorable Adam Schiff United State House of Representatives 2372 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20151

ATTN: Michael Aguilera - michael.aguilera@mail.house.gov

Dear Representative Schiff:

Thank you for your service in the United States House of Representatives. We are so proud to have you represent West Hollywood.

I am writing to express the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce's support for the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act (H.R. 4086 / S. 1993), which would expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by approximately 191,000 acres to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor. This corridor is a critically important area that connects wilderness areas and provides recreational activities for all Southern California's 18 million residents.

Our Board of Directors recognizes this legislation is the result of a years-long study conducted by the National Park Service, coupled with input from local communities and interested stakeholders. It will help local governments, land owners, and conservation organizations preserve our beautiful open space and increase access to public lands while respecting private property rights and local governmental authorities.

The West Hollywood Business Community is excited by the prospect of increased recreational opportunities this important legislation would provide to both residents of and visitors to the Los Angeles Basin.

We are pleased that the legislation has bipartisan support in the House of Representatives and look forward to its passage from both the House and Senate so that the lands, wildlife, and recreation opportunities in and around our communities are protected for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Morrill
President and CEO

8272 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90046 <u>www.wehochamber.com</u> Tel: 323-650-2688 / Fax: 323-650-2689



### August 15, 2018

The Honorable Steve Daines Chairman Energy and Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on National Parks United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510 The Honorable Angus King Ranking Member Energy and Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on National Parks United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 1987 / H.R. 2600 the Pottawattamie County Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act

Dear Chairman Daines and Ranking Member King,

On behalf of more than 1 million of our members and supporters, The Wilderness Society (TWS) writes to oppose S. 1987 / H.R. 2600 the Pottawattamie County Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act being heard in the Subcommittee on National Parks on August 15, 2018.

S. 1987/H.R. 2600 directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey, without consideration, to the State of Iowa, the reversionary interest held by the United States in the Western Historic Trails Center and surrounding property in Council Bluffs, Iowa. In 1989, Congress enacted and authorized the construction of a trails interpretation center to commemorate and interpret the history of certain national historic trails. In 1998, the property was given to the State Historical Society of Iowa with clear reversionary interest, which requires that if the land is no longer used for the public purpose for which it was given, it is to revert to the United States. Conveying the reversionary interest to the State of Iowa, who is considering transferring the property to the City of Council Bluffs for potential additional development, is bad public lands policy that eliminates American taxpayers' interest in the property and is in clear violation of the reversionary interest Congress had intended. TWS encourages all members to oppose S. 1987.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

America Fitzpatrick

Senior Government Relations Representative

The Wilderness Society

a Fitzpatrick